

189271

Parsons, Susan

From: Briana Goodwin <bgoodwin@surfrider.org>
Sent: Wednesday, November 28, 2018 8:48 AM
To: Council Clerk – Testimony
Subject: Regarding City Council Agenda Item 1211, November 28, 2018
Attachments: SF_PDX_Comments_Nov28.pdf

Please find the attached testimony on behalf of the Portland Chapter of Surfrider Foundation regarding agenda item 1211, Repeal Code for Single-use Plastic Checkout Bags and Polystyrene Foam Food Containers and replace with Code Prohibitions and Restrictions on Single-use Plastic (Second Reading 1196; replace Code Chapter 17.103; repeal Code Sections 17.102.300-400)

--
Bri Goodwin | Oregon Field Manager | [Surfrider Foundation](#)
541.655.0236 | bgoodwin@surfrider.org | fb: [oregonsurfrider](#)

November 28, 2018



Mayor Wheeler, Members of Portland City Council:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Surfrider Foundation regarding Code Prohibitions and Restrictions on Single-use Plastic. The Portland Chapter of Surfrider Foundation fully supports the amendments to the single-use plastic serviceware policy. These amendments bring the ordinance into alignment with the original policy that came out of the plastic reduction working group and is closer to the original intent of the resolution to develop a strategy to reduce single-use non-recyclable plastic including straws.

Fully including fast food, takeout, and delivery in this ordinance is imperative to reaching waste reduction and environmental protection goals. In addition to transitioning more than 120 businesses away from single-use plastic straws, the Portland Chapter holds monthly cleanups throughout the City of Portland. We find straws at each of those cleanups, many coming from fast food and takeout restaurants.

Businesses participating in Ditch the Straw PDX have seen success through cost savings on the scale of thousands of dollars per year and significant reductions in the amount of plastic straws used. Scaling up the reductions we've seen with only 120 businesses to the City's approximately 6,000 food service businesses, this ordinance could prevent millions of plastics straws from entering the waste stream.

In order to know if this benefit is realized, the city needs a robust monitoring program for this policy. Monitoring data will be imperative for evaluating policy success and informing future policies. After a year of monitoring, Surfrider requests that the city demonstrate the results of the ordinance and consider more options to limit single-use plastics building on the progress made by an on-request policy.

Thank you for the directive to work on this issue. We look forward to continuing our work with businesses and the city to support implementation of this policy and making a measurable impact on reducing plastic pollution and waste in Portland.

Sincerely,

Nancy Nordman
Ditch the Straw Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation Portland Chapter

Chanel Hason
Chapter Chair
Surfrider Foundation Portland Chapter

Briana Goodwin
Oregon Field Manager
Surfrider Foundation