

March 26, 2024

My name is Steve Steuber and I am with the Coalition for Plastic Reduction.

Thank you to Chair Klevorn and members of the State and Local Government Finance and Policy committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HF 4744, Prohibition on banning merchant bags removed.

Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year, which require 12 million barrels of oil to manufacture. Minnesotans throw away more than 500 tons of plastic bags every day. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) states that in Minnesota plastic bag recycling is less than 10% annually.

It takes a 1,000 years for a plastic bag to degrade in a landfill. Unfortunately, the bags don't break down. Plastic bags containers contains chemical additives such as endocrine disruptors, which are associated with negative health effects including cancers, birth defects and immune system suppression in humans and wildlife

Plastic bags are a big problem for Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) who have to shut down there lines several times a day to remove plastic film from their equipment costing these facilities lost processing time and money for their workers to do this endless task.

Right now, cities and counties in Minnesota are prohibited from passing local bans on single-use plastic bags. We need to restore local control to cities and counties to address plastic pollution as they think is best.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

Steve Steuber  
Coalition for Plastic Reduction (CPR)