

House Business Affairs & Labor

02/16/2022 Upon Adjournment

HB22-1134 Measures To Reduce Use Single-use Meal Accessories

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Sonia Koetting For Self	<p>I fully support flipping the tables so that I don't have to remember to say PLEASE DON'T GIVE ME THAT PLASTIC TRASH. It seems that public health would support our right to not be buried in plastic trash we did not request. Those who need it can still ask for it, so no one's rights are diminished.</p> <p>Whether or not there are consequences to businesses is less important. I think many managers will appreciate no longer having to "keep up" with the assumption that single-use trash is expected.</p> <p>As consumers, it will help us build new habits while saving money for the industry and landfill items from the planet. Hurts no one's "liberties" and helps society in a couple ways. That's a win!</p>
Hayley Bubb For Self	<p>As a Colorado resident, I strongly support Rep. Titone's bill HB22-1134 to reduce the use of single-use meal accessories. Plastic debris and fragments have been found contaminating the land and water across the US, including the land and water in our own Rocky Mountain National Park. In addition, the manufacturing of plastic products consumes about 14% of oil, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions that are fueling the climate crisis. These plastic cutlery items are not necessary and dispensing with them can save restaurants millions of dollars. There is simply no reason to continue automatically handing out plastic items that amount to hundreds of thousands of tons of waste every year. Thank you for your time.</p>
zac snow For Self	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a resident of Adams County. This bill is necessary because as a customer, I am constantly getting stuff I don't want or need from restaurants and delivery services. Even when I try to request no utensils when ordering over the phone, through online apps, and even in person, the request isn't followed through with, and I end up with unnecessary single use disposable items. Understandably, restaurants want to provide excellent service to their customers and don't want to get a bad review for not providing utensils. However, the system is set up to automatically give out this stuff when most of the time, I'm taking food home or to work and eating it there where I have utensils and condiments. I don't want garbage! Restaurants use apps and other systems that don't ask the customer for these items.</p>

	<p>Even when apps do offer this option, most of the time my request is not honored, and I am still left with unnecessary disposable utensils! I want to be able to have that choice and I think restaurants would appreciate having that option to save money. The current system needs to be fixed. It's extremely wasteful, costing restaurants money in these very difficult and challenging times and adding to our plastic pollution problems. Single-use food service ware items are also some of the most commonly littered items. Plastic pollution breaks down into dust-like microplastics which are impossible to remove from the environment and may contaminate water supplies and soil that are used to grow food. Restaurants want consistency and customers want to have a say in what they receive. This bill does both. It is a win-win. It helps restaurants in this difficult economic time, gives customers like myself a choice and it helps the environment. I fully support this bill and would like to see these economic and environmental benefits in effect.</p> <p>Zac Snow</p>
<p>Adam Fedyski For Self</p>	<p>I feel this bill is necessary because I am given excess plasticware and napkins anytime I order food for pickup or delivery from a restaurant. In spite of my efforts to refuse single use meal accessories, I have a kitchen drawer full of them, many of which are years old because I feel bad about throwing them away. The current system needs to be fixed. It's extremely wasteful, costing restaurants money and adding to our plastic pollution problems. I believe that this bill will help restaurants reduce costs in this difficult economic time while also giving customers a choice for what they actually want or need with their meal.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Adam Fedyski</p>
<p>Marina Connors For Self</p>	<p>I fully support HB22-1134. Any efforts to eliminate waste, especially plastic waste, in our community is a win for our climate and earth. Colorado, with it's natural beauty and resources, should be a leader in environmental protection and this bill is one way we can be that leader. I live in Estes Park, the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park, which has thousands of tourists visit each year. The town and national park struggle to have high levels of recycling and waste diversion because of their distance from the front range. A bill like this one will have a tremendous impact on waste reduction for Estes Park.</p>
<p>Rachel Ames For Self</p>	<p>I am writing today in support of the CO bill HB22-1134 Measures To Reduce Use Single-use Meal Accessories (aka "Skip the Stuff"). I have been supplying my own napkins and silverware when I eat out for over 20 years and it is often frustrating to convey to restaurants that I don't</p>

	<p>want all the extras. All too often I see ketchup packets, straws and plastic silverware scattered on city sidewalks and near park benches because they weren't needed or didn't make their way into the trash can. This bill provides for the people who want the items to request them, but allows for people who don't want them to not have to jump through hoops to make their wishes known. Thank you for your support of this bill.</p>
<p>Vadim Uzdensky For Self</p>	<p>Dear State Legislators of Business Affairs and Labor Committee:</p> <p>I am a senior in high school, and we high school students often don't have spare time to get involved in state-level politics. However, I am taking this time, which in all honesty, I don't actually have, in order to express my desire, which I share with scientists, leaders, and young people around the world, that you take action to limit plastic pollution. This is why you must pass HB22-1134.</p> <p>Plastic pollution has reached, according to the Stockholm Resilience Centre, levels that are dangerous for humanity. Recycling has, so far, proven to be wholly inadequate. Furthermore, plastics are synthesized from fossil fuels, specifically, ethane, a byproduct of fracking for natural gas. As the Yale School for the Environment puts it, plastic is a subsidy for fracking. This cannot go on. If nothing else, the supply of fossil fuel feedstock for plastic is finite, and eventually must be depleted. However, fearsome challenges posed by plastic to human civilization have already appeared. Already, people reliant on fishing and marine health for their sustenance are finding their way of life under threat, with plastic in their catch.</p> <p>I do not think it is too much to ask of you today to take this relatively small action to limit plastic pollution. The rate at which plastic silverware is distributed is ridiculous. I have always found that metal forks, knives, and spoons are always more suitable, if for nothing else then just the practical task of eating. If there are situations in which a customer needs plastic ware, they can request it, but this shouldn't be the default. I believe that, given the choice, customers in most cases will choose metal silverware, as would I. The result would be a substantial decrease in plastic pollution in Colorado, reducing littering and improving our quality of life. Of course, there may be costs to businesses as they transition, but they will be temporary.</p> <p>The benefits will be forever.</p>
<p>Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry For Self</p>	<p>I'm so grateful to see this bill before the CO legislature. A simple required question about serviceware is an easy way to shift both retail and consumer behavior. I feel it needs to be required to increase awareness on both sides. I'm very tired to requesting no additional plastic forks or straws and getting them anyway. Plastic pollution is awful for the environment. I hope you vote on the side of the environment.</p>

<p>Lisa Boehm For Self</p>	<p>During this pandemic, I have ordered food from restaurants to help support businesses. As I was eating the meals at home, I didn't need plastic utensils or napkins yet was always given them. It actually made me order out less than I might have otherwise because the waste is so bothersome to me. I often could not find a way to request to not receive these items. And when I go to restaurants I always ask for no straw with my drink yet often receive one anyway because it is the habit of the server to give them. The amount of plastic waste is atrocious and if we could flip the habit to be for consumers to request single use items rather than they be given out of habit, the amount of waste would decrease significantly.</p> <p>Thank you for taking this into consideration. We need to do all that we can to slow the damage we are causing and hopefully get to the point to reverse the damage.</p>
<p>Lance Kittel For Inland Ocean Coalition</p>	<p>This bill is necessary on multiple fronts. First, Colorado is a leading inland state tackling excess single-use plastic consumption and waste, and has the opportunity to reduce environmental impacts related to single-use plastics. Second, the bill aims to reduce the overhead costs associated with purchasing, transporting, and delivering single-use plastics to consumers who may not use them. In an effort to reduce carbon emissions related to shipping, costs associated with needlessly dispersing single-use plastics to uninterested consumers, and environmental impacts related to single-use plastics, I support and encourage others to support HB 22-1134.</p>
<p>Barbara Werner For Self</p>	<p>To reduce the harm to environmental and personal health from plastics, we need to wean ourselves off single use plastic utensils and condiment packets often included with take out food. The intent of this bill is consistent with the Plastics Pollution Management Act passed in 2021. These plastic items end up in landfills where they degrade into microplastics which pollute air and water used by animals and humans. This is unnecessary as we can easily learn to employ reusable utensils and sustainable condiment packaging or dispensers. I urge passage of this helpful bill.</p>
<p>Kathy Nguyen For Self</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a resident of Adams County. This bill is necessary because as a customer, I am constantly getting stuff I don't want or need from restaurants and delivery services. Even when I try to request no utensils when ordering over the phone, through online apps, and even in person, the request isn't followed through with, and I end up with unnecessary single use disposable items. Understandably, restaurants want to provide excellent service to their customers and don't want to get a bad review for not providing utensils. However, the system is set up to automatically give out this stuff when most of the time, I'm taking food home or to work and eating it there where I have utensils and condiments. I don't want garbage! Restaurants use apps and other systems that don't ask the customer for these items. Even when apps do</p>

	<p>offer this option, most of the time my request is not honored and I am still left with unnecessary disposable utensils! I want to be able to have that choice and I think restaurants would appreciate having that option to save money. The current system needs to be fixed. It's extremely wasteful, costing restaurants money in these very difficult and challenging times and adding to our plastic pollution problems. Single-use food service ware items are also some of the most commonly littered items. Plastic pollution breaks down into dust-like microplastics which are impossible to remove from the environment and may contaminate water supplies and soil that are used to grow food. Restaurants want consistency and customers want to have a say in what they receive. This bill does both. It is a win-win. It helps restaurants in this difficult economic time, gives customers like myself a choice and it helps the environment. I fully support this bill and would like to see these economic and environmental benefits in effect.</p> <p>Thank you, Kathy Nguyen</p>
<p>Channing Childs For Self</p>	<p>This is a no-brainer. Why give people plastic waste they will have trouble disposing of if they don't need it. Large delivery apps like Postmates have already implemented this option upon checkout and in a year saved 22 million packs of plastic cutlery from entering the waste stream, a savings of \$3.2 million dollars for restaurants.</p> <p>I have already heard restaurants around the Denver metro adopt this policy when picking up food. It's a simple ask with only positive benefits for restaurants, consumers, and the environment.</p>
<p>Lisa Haddox For Self</p>	<p>We need legislation to limit the amount of "stuff" being produced, never used, and then thrown away in a landfill. I have frequently received utensils and condiments which I did not order. This became even more evident during the pandemic. "Skip the Stuff" will benefit consumers, restaurants, and the environment - a trifecta! Now that we understand the dangers of microplastics, it is time to act. Please support and move this bill forward. Thank you.</p>
<p>Debby Vink For League of Women Voters of Colorado</p>	<p>Honorable Committee Chair and Committee Members, The League of Women Voters of Colorado supports this measure as one step toward better controlling waste in Colorado. Why is the burden of managing waste often put on the individual? At that moment of purchasing or discarding remnants of a meal are often hectic and distracting. For this reason we can somewhat excuse people from properly ordering or disposing of what is left from a takeout or in-restaurant order. Why not help restaurants and individuals prevent such waste to begin with? This is a practical way to dent the mountain of waste that ends up in our landfills for decades to come. We cannot rely on recycling and composting to handle waste. We must find solutions</p>

	before the waste occurs wherever possible! I urge a "yes" vote on this proposal!!
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February 16, 2022

Representative Brianna Titone
200 E Colfax
RM 307
Denver, CO 80203
United States

RE: House Bill 22-1143

Dear Representative Titone:

I am writing to you today to express Grubhub's support of HB 22-1134, your bill to require disposable foodware accessories to be made available only upon the customer's request. Grubhub cares deeply about sustainability, both internally and throughout the food ecosystem, and we are excited to see you exploring such an important issue.

On February 25, 2021, Grubhub officially joined the #CutOutCutlery campaign and committed to dramatically reducing the number of single-use plastics that enter the environment. The Grubhub app and website automatically default to zero utensils and napkins with every order. **While diners are able to request plasticware when needed, this has generated a 78% reduction in the amount of plasticware requested in diner orders, which reduces plastic waste and generates significant cost savings for restaurants across the country.**

This action will prevent millions of pieces of plastic cutlery from entering the environment annually. According to HabitsofWaste.org, organizer of the #CutOutCutlery campaign, 40 billion pieces of plastic cutlery end up in the waste stream per year.

Beyond the clear environmental benefits, removing plasticware is also another way Grubhub and our diners help generate cost savings for restaurants at a time when they need it most. Research has found that restaurants can save potentially thousands of dollars annually by reducing how much plasticware they distribute. This is an important step in Grubhub's journey toward more sustainable business practices.

We look forward to working with you, and please let me know how Grubhub can support this proposal as it moves through the legislative process.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Healy".

Amy P. Healy
Vice President, Government Affairs