

Please support a bill to ban single use plastic.

40% of plastics produced are single use plastics like plastic utensils, bags, straws, food containers and packaging that we use once and toss within 15 minutes. That 40% we can easily do without. These plastics never completely break down. They break down into microplastics less than 5 mm in size and nanoplastics, the size of a virus. They are everywhere in our soil, water, air and all life on earth including our bodies. Microplastic and the added toxic chemicals cost \$1.5 trillion in health care costs from diseases they cause.

The fracking of natural gas to make plastic contributes to global warming and, if production increases as projected, it will cause irreversible climate change.

Microplastics in our bodies can cause inflammatory reactions, cell damage and death, immune system compromise, intestinal, respiratory, cardiovascular and neurological diseases like strokes and heart attacks, dementia, infertility and fetal harm (deformities, premature and still births, greater risks of diseases in later life for children exposed in utero).

Of the 16,000 chemicals added to give plastics their different properties, 2400 are considered harmful to humans and other animals. The rest have not been tested. The harmful chemicals are endocrine disruptors that interfere with our hormone systems. They are linked to diabetes, obesity, cancers especially of the reproductive organs, infertility, still births and deformed fetuses, high cholesterol, high blood pressure, ADHD, autism, learning disabilities, depression and other mental disturbances, and respiratory diseases. Production of plastics is projected to triple by 2060, from 2 million tons in 1950s to 400 million tons now and 1.2 billion tons by 2060. That is a 70-fold increase and half of all the plastics ever produced was in the last 15 to 20 years. The plastic chain of production emits 1.8 billion tons of CO₂ a year. By 2050 plastic production could reach 56 gigatons, 10 to 13 % of our remaining carbon budget.

For these compelling reasons, I am urging you to save our health and the health of our planet by supporting the ban on single use plastic.

Thank you,