

Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

Hearing date: January 23, 2024

Date of Written Testimony: January 21, 2024

HB 2446

Opponent

Sidney Zavala, Self (Concerned Citizen)

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sidney Zavala, a KU alum and current graduate student at K-State. I am writing to you all to share my concerns and let you know that I oppose HB 2446. This bill presents concerns for the environment and sustainability, as well as for local governance.

The bill could undermine the ability of local communities to respond to specific challenges they face. Each municipality should be able to make their own decisions to best suit their concerns, problems, and take into account what their citizens need and want. This is crucial for our municipal governments to be effective. The elected officials of those municipalities are able to best communicate with their citizens and understand local issues, and can make the best informed decisions for their municipalities as they are part of those communities.

The environmental concern for this bill is also very significant. Plastic pollution is a significant state, and global, issue. Limiting the ability for municipalities to regulate the use of plastic and other containers hinders local efforts to try to address and aid the issue. Plastic waste poses a threat to ecosystems, wildlife, and public health. It alters habitats and can affect food production. I think about our state's beautiful rivers, lakes, and wildlife that are counting on us to do the best we can to take care of our environment. Plastics take too long to break down and microplastics are continuing to expand their presence in our lives; for our health and future generations, plastic consumption, turned plastic pollution, needs to be reduced.

I strongly oppose HB 2446, as local autonomy for this issue, as with most issues, is crucial. The weight that this bill carries is important, so I urge you to vote against HB 2446 and support other regulations that aim to reduce the use of single-use plastics. Thank you for your consideration.

Sidney Zavala