

WISE ENVIRONMENTAL HUDDLE
Plastics & Packaging Reduction Act
SB313/HB209

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- **The world produces more than 400 million tons of plastic annually**
- **36% is for single-use material designed for immediate disposal**
- **18 billion pounds of plastic waste flows into the oceans every year**

You have all seen the pictures or heard the story about the scientist who found a plastic straw in the nose of a sea turtle. But have you heard about her earlier experience with a distressed sea turtle?

Christine Figgner (Texas A&M University) was observing sea turtles laying their eggs on a beach. One turtle was having a very difficult time, struggling and struggling to lay her eggs. Dr. Figgner finally went over to her to see if there was a problem. What she found was a plastic bag blocking the turtle's birthing canal. That one turtle that one time was saved by human intervention. What about all the others?

Sea turtles are ingesting plastic bags they mistake for jellyfish – causing blockage in their digestive system and eventual death. They also ingest specks of microplastic as the bags break down and as other plastic breaks down in the oceans.

I am here before you today representing the WISE Environmental Huddle to ask that you take the strongest action possible to ban single use plastic bags. They are completely unnecessary and are destroying the beauty and the health of our planet. I'm sick of pulling plastic bags off fences, out of trees, off the ground and out of sewer drains.

Several years ago, California took this action. I was a resident there at the time. Some people will tell you that this is an inconvenience and a hardship. And that was true for a very brief period of time for some. But people quickly adjusted. The people who forgot their bags started doing what we all do at Costco. Many merchants had reusable bag give-aways or sold reusable bags with their logos for a nominal cost for the first month.

This is a great bill. I thank every delegate who co-sponsored it and I applaud Del. Lierman. Please vote YES.

Thank you.