

CROSSOVER BILL HB0173\_RichardKaplowitz\_FAV

3/26/2024

Richard Keith Kaplowitz  
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**TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0173 – FAVORABLE**

**State Buildings and State Highways - Collection of Yard Waste**

**TO:** Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

**FROM:** Richard Keith Kaplowitz

**My name is Richard K. Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony in support of CROSSOVER BILL HB#0173, State Buildings and State Highways - Collection of Yard Waste**

This bill is an attempt to begin to ameliorate the harm that plastic bags are creating in our environment. The disposal of yard waste can occur in a more favorable way with less negative effects on the environment if this bill is passed. The University of Colorado Boulder's Environmental Center has written about the harms of plastic bags, a harm this bill attempts to prevent.

“More than 100 billion plastic bags are used in America each year. One of the first steps to living an environmentally friendly lifestyle is to eliminate plastic bags from your life. This action can start to feel arbitrary - is switching to reusable bags really making that much of a difference? This article serves as a reminder to those who have eliminated plastic bags from their life that YES, it makes a big difference, and to encourage those who haven't eliminated plastic bags why it is important to do so.”<sup>1</sup>

L.A. County Public Works has also documented the harms of the increase of plastic in our environment.

“Plastic bags are difficult and costly to recycle and most end up on landfill sites where they take around 300 years to photodegrade. They break down into tiny toxic particles that contaminate the soil and waterways and enter the food chain when animals accidentally ingest them. But the problems surrounding waste plastic bags starts long before they photodegrade. Our planet is becoming increasingly contaminated by our unnecessary use of plastic bags. Big black bin liners, plastic carrier bags carrying advertising logos, clear sandwich bags and a variety of other forms are all polluting our environment. They're lightweight, handy and easily discarded. Too easily discarded.”<sup>2</sup>

**I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report and pass CROSSOVER BILL HB0173.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.colorado.edu/center/2022/02/23/issues-plastic-bags-and-ripple-effect>

<sup>2</sup> [https://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/plasticbags/articles/googobits\\_07-21-05.pdf](https://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/plasticbags/articles/googobits_07-21-05.pdf)