

Vote Explanation SB 543:

I voted against SB 543 because SB 543 has problems like SB 569. I spoke against 569 and pointed out that it was a small requirement, but unconstitutional and wrong.

Some other Senators felt differently. They thought it would improve access for some people. This bill has other excuses.

It was pointed out that close captioning might help teach children to read. Yes, it's true, the brief access children might have to restaurant closed captioning – mostly sports bars – might actually have a significant impact on our children's ability to read, what with the schools being so bad and all.

But most importantly it was emphasized that it was a small requirement. It was only minimal work on the part of the restaurant. Some restaurants might actually be opposed to close captioning regardless of the time involved, but we just trampled on those rights.

Here we go again.

Another small requirement. We are now deciding what disposable containers restaurants may use. This bill also bans a lot of other useful products.

There are alternatives, of course. Maybe it's not a big deal. They can use those. But again, this bill will trample on their rights.

Why are restaurants using polystyrene containers? Obviously because they prefer them to the alternatives. Maybe cost. Maybe they feel their food presents better and looks more appetizing in them.

We don't know. But we do know that we will further restrict restaurants options with this bill.

Colleagues, all these little requirements add up.

Maybe if we work hard enough the pizza restaurants, that I referred to the other day will be in as bad shape as the medical system.

I guess that's one way to fix the medical system. We just get rid of the efficiency in other industries that makes them look bad.

I also note that we recently passed SB 545 to allow non-disposable containers in restaurants. Now we are eliminating certain types of disposable containers. Is the goal to eliminate single use containers entirely?

America was founded on the principles of freedom. Free enterprise has provided us with a wonderful quality of life. Single use containers are one of those inventions which enhances our life with virtually zero downsides.

Littering, which is mentioned as a reason for passing this bill is entirely a separate issue. We should not try to make people behave by eliminating their technology.

Again, I encourage you to stand for freedom. Let's not pretend that the definition of freedom is forcing Oregonians to do anything we think is good for them.