



## TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS.

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February 2, 2010

Senator Jackie Dingfelder  
Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Oregon Capitol, Salem

RE: SB 1009

Dear Senator Dingfelder and Committee Members,

Tualatin Riverkeepers urges your support for SB 1009.

Plastic bags have a significant impact for Oregon's waterways and wildlife. Plastic bags are a hazard to wildlife and do not degrade quickly. Plastic bags are not recyclable at the curbside.

Brown paper bags are both recyclable and compostable. If paper bags become litter, they quickly degrade into mulch.

Paper bags are not without their environmental costs. To encourage sustainable use of resources we urge that paper bags have a point-of-sale cost or tax commensurate with their environmental impact.

Implementing a plastic bag ban and paper bag tax is practicable. Many grocers already offer incentives for customers who bring their own reusable shopping bags. Some retailers have already banned plastic bags. We should make this sustainable practice standard with SB 1009.

Thanks to Senators Hass and Atkinson for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Brian Wegener  
Watershed Watch Coordinator

