THOMAS HUDLOW

I am a Washington State resident and taxpayer, and I would like to raise concerns about the fairness and environmental effectiveness of our state's plastic bag regulations.
Washington requires retailers to charge consumers for plastic grocery bags, yet manufacturers, wholesalers, and distributors continue using significant amounts of disposable plastic packaging to transport their products.
My concern is that consumers and small businesses are being required to change their behavior while larger companies continue generating substantial amounts of plastic waste.
I would like the Department of Ecology to address the following questions:
Why are consumers required to pay mandatory bag charges while manufacturers and wholesalers are not generally required to use reusable shipping containers?
Has Washington evaluated requiring reusable shipping crates, pallets, and containers instead of disposable plastic wrapping wherever practical?
If thicker reusable plastic bags require more plastic to manufacture, how does the state determine whether these regulations actually reduce overall plastic waste?
Why aren't retailers allowed to absorb the cost of shopping bags as a customer service?
Will the state's Recycling Reform Act measure reductions in actual plastic consumption rather than focusing primarily on recycling rates?
I support responsible environmental protection. However, I believe environmental policies should address plastic waste throughout the entire supply chain, not disproportionately place responsibility on consumers.
I encourage Washington State to investigate reusable transportation packaging, establish measurable plastic-reduction goals, and evaluate whether existing bag regulations are accomplishing their intended purpose.
I respectfully request that these concerns be considered as part of Washington's recycling needs assessment and future packaging policies.
Thank you for your consideration.
A concerned Washington State taxpayer