

DATE

**VOTE YES on HB679 Customer Opt In for Single Use Plastic Foodware**

Dear

I urge you to pass legislation that reduces the needless waste that occurs when take-out and delivery meals come with utensils, straws, condiments, napkins, and other accessories that consumers don't need.

**Restaurants and the online ordering platforms they use should only provide single-use accessories for when customers specifically request them.** Uber Eats has already done it! We need a permanent fix that ensures that all take-out and delivery orders only provide accessories that the customer needs.

**The United States uses more than 36 billion disposable utensils a year.** Laid end to end, they could wrap around the globe 139 times.<sup>1</sup> Americans use as much as 142 billion straws each year.<sup>2</sup> Each year, billions of single-use plastics and paper accessories – utensils, straws, napkins, and condiments – are given to customers who order meals for take-out or delivery and don't need them. Most take-out and delivery meals go to homes and offices already stocked with these items.

**The vast majority of these single-use items cannot be recycled.** They add to our significant plastic pollution crisis, littering our streets, parks, rivers, and oceans and clogging already overfilled landfills. Cutting down trees and using more fossil fuels for items that aren't even used makes no sense in the middle of a climate crisis.

I urge you to ACT NOW and pass legislation that requires restaurants and online ordering platforms to "ask first" before giving customers unwanted disposable foodware accessories. It's time to **#SkiptheStuffNC!**

Respectfully,

<sup>1</sup> Sietsema, Tom, "All my takeout has delivered a mountain of trash. So I asked experts how to minimize it." Washington Post, Sept. 14, 2020

<sup>2</sup> Niraj, Chokshi, "How a 9-Year-Old Boy's Statistic Shaped a Debate on Straws." New York Times - July, 2018.