

**CITY OF BOZEMAN TESTIMONY**  
**Natalie Meyer**  
**House Local Government Committee**  
**02-14-2023**

**Good Afternoon**, Chair Brewster and Local Government Committee Members, My name is **Natalie Meyer (M-E-Y-E-R)**, I am the Sustainability Program Manager for the City of Bozeman. Thank you for the opportunity today to testify in **SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 413** on behalf of the City of Bozeman.

*Last session, the State legislature chose to add many new provisions to the powers denied to self-governing entities in Montana. One addition to the list of powers denied was limiting local government's ability to regulate auxiliary containers, another name for plastic bags.*

*Plastic bag fees have yielded success in several cities across the United States and around the world. The additional fee is often small, maybe five or ten cents per a bag. However, it does make a difference in the behavior of the consumer. Other cities have shown a reduction of 72% in plastic bag usage upon implementing the fees.<sup>1</sup> This reduction would align with the provision in the Montana Constitution acknowledging every Montanan's right to a clean and healthful environment.*

*Further, plastic bags can take up to 1,000 years to breakdown in a landfill. To put that in context, if they had plastic bags several hundred years ago, a plastic bag placed in a*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gwhatchet.com/2018/02/07/district-tax-leads-to-sharp-decrease-in-plastic-bag-use/>

*landfill before Christopher Columbus even came to America would still be there. Thus, by continuing our reliance on plastic bags, we are passing on the burden of these containers created for our convenience onto our children, their children, and many, many generations of Montana children beyond that.*

*The City of Bozeman supports this legislation because it will allow individual cities and towns and their constituents to make the right decision for their own communities rather than requiring every city to conform to a statewide standard.*

Thank you Chair Brewster and members of the Local Government Committee for hearing my testimony **SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 413** today. I look forward to answering any questions you may have and urge a do pass.

**\*\*\*\*\*FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY\*\*\*\*\***

Please insert any questions you would like Members of the Committee to ask below here. These questions should provide opportunity for you to expand on your original testimony or make additional points.