

MONO COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS, MAY 14, 2024

Janet Carle comments on Proposed Ordinance to prohibit Styrafoam Foodware, Single use Foodware Accessories, and Single Use Plastic Water Bottles in Mono County: I am here today to support the proposed Ordinances to be adopted by Mono County. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has already adopted these prohibitions. There is a good template to follow using their wording and roll out, which can be phased over a few years.

I am a retired State Park Ranger , working much of my career at the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. I have picked up innumerable plastic water bottles around the lake, as well as plastic balloons and thousands of plastic bags. Plastic is literally everywhere, including our bodies, our wildlife and our food. We are drowning in plastic on our planet. Our desire for convenience , and all the wonderful qualities of plastic, have brought us to this point.

That is why this is such an important step for you as County leaders to take. There will be pushback – that people need their conveniences and plastic is essential. However, there are already existing options for businesses in the form of cardboard takeout boxes and wooden tableware. Last weekend I met a young man who is pioneering washable, returnable takeout containers and coffee cups that are made with solar energy from recycled ocean-bound plastic. The used containers are returned by the customer to drop off points, washed, and returned to the restaurants at no cost to the consumer. There are already 10 restaurants in Mammoth using his Buoy system and he is hoping that Mammoth Mountain will sign on soon. This is the future.

We have mostly learned to bring our reusable bags to the grocery store. Yes, it was a learning curve. Yes, it is not as convenient. But we remembered to bring our bags when the stores started charging for theirs & banning single use ones. People can learn to fill their reusable water bottles with our wonderful mountain water before they go on their outing!

We are Mono County. Our motto is Wild by Nature. We are where people come to recreate and enjoy the quiet, the openness, the dark skies and the bubbling creeks. We need to set an example of a more sustainable way to do things. I hope in my lifetime I will see us get completely off plastic. I remember , as a child of the 1950s, what it was like! It is possible!

Please join with the Town of Mammoth Lakes in enacting these Ordinances. I have picked up too many tiny pieces of Styrafoam and plastic along San Francisco Bay in my home town. It is not enough to recycle. Most plastic doesn't really get recycled. We need to move into a future as a society where use it once and toss it is not ok. Let's all do our part to protect our beautiful county by setting an example for our visitors from all over the world.

IT IS TIME!! It is the right thing to do. Thank you for listening and serving as our Supervisors.