

Dear Owner,

I care about single-use container pollution, and about my favorite restaurant. **I hope you will consider the many benefits of participating in the local reusable container program.**

Sincerely, your customer,

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For more information about the Restaurant Reusables  
takeout container program visit

[www.zerowastemcminnville.com/reusables](http://www.zerowastemcminnville.com/reusables)

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Dear Owner,

**Please consider the following facts**

**Economic:** In every study where restaurants switched from disposables to reusables, ALL restaurants **saved money**. *(Upstream)*

**Environmental:** 1 trillion pieces of **disposable foodware** are used in the U.S. every year. The vast majority of these end up in the ocean or on beaches. *(Upstream)*

**Public Health:** Plastic is composed of over 16,000 chemicals! Many of these chemicals are **not safe for human consumption** and are already known to cause cancer and other diseases. When hot food or drink touches plastic, these chemicals leach into the food. *(Smithsonian)*

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**Economic:** \$24 billion is spent by restaurants and food-service businesses on disposables every year. Reusables can **decrease food container costs by up to 80%**. *(Forever Ware)*

**Environmental:** The shiny, plastic lining on most cardboard/paper takeout containers means they **cannot be recycled**. Plastic takeout containers and most compostable containers cannot be processed at Recology. *(Recology)*

**Public Health:** The most common **microplastics found in human bodies** are from foodware and food containers. *(Medscape)*

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Please consider the following facts

**Economic:** Most restaurants that transitioned to reusables did not alter their dishwashing process or spend more on labor. Using reusables **cost them less overall** than single-use food containers. *(Upstream)*

**Environmental:** While the effective life of a takeout container is brief, the container will **outlive us all**, by hundreds—if not thousands—of years. *(Plastic Pollution Coalition)*

**Public Health:** Over 16,000 of the 16,000 chemicals in plastic have unknown toxicity. Those that are known are linked to **serious and fatal diseases** in humans. *(Smithsonian)*

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Please consider the following facts

**Economic:** As of 1/1/25, Oregon law (SB 543) states that **ALL restaurant food containers cannot contain PFAS**. Single-use containers that comply with the new law can cost between 40 and 90 cents, compared to 5 cents per Restaurant Reusables container. *(Upstream & SB 543)*

**Environmental:** **Plastic never goes away**. It simply breaks up into smaller and smaller pieces until it becomes microplastic or nanoplastic. *(UN Environment Program)*

**Public Health:** Microplastics, which leach into hot food from plastic or lined food containers, **have been found in human blood**, the brain, tissues, the placenta, the heart, and even newborn babies' feces. *(Science Alert)*