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### **PLASTICS REDUCTION ACT ADVANCES**

*Legislation protects human and environmental health by reducing single-use plastics*

(BOSTON, MA) – Today, comprehensive plastics reduction legislation filed by State Senator Becca Rausch (D-Needham) advanced with a favorable report out of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. The [Plastics Reduction Act](#) will address some of the most common single-use plastics, including plastic bags, plastic food service ware, and car seats.

Plastic pollution is a growing crisis. An estimated [17 billion pounds](#) of plastic flow into our oceans every year; Massachusetts residents contribute to that pollution by using more than [2 billion](#) plastic bags annually, in addition to plastic straws, cutlery, miniature alcohol bottles, and other plastic containers. [Less than 10%](#) of plastic waste is actually recycled. Many plastics in Massachusetts are [incinerated](#), releasing [toxic chemicals and heavy metals](#) that [harm human and environmental health](#) and [exacerbate environmental justice inequities](#). [Microplastics are everywhere](#), including in our own bodies, even in [heart tissue](#). Moreover, plastics are made from [fossil fuels](#), further contributing to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

“We are effectively smothering ourselves and our planet in plastic,” **said Senator Rausch**. “We cannot burn, bury, or recycle our way out of the plastic pollution problem. We need systemic change that gets at the root of it, which is exactly what the Plastics Reduction Act delivers. I am deeply grateful to the many colleagues and advocates who have contributed so much to advancing this policy and am eager to continue our partnerships as we keep pushing this legislative plastics package forward.”

This legislative advancement comes just a few months after Governor Maura Healey signed an [Executive Order](#) prohibiting state offices and agencies from purchasing any single-use plastic bottles. The Plastics Reduction Act now awaits further action in the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

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*Senator Becca Rausch represents the Norfolk, Worcester and Middlesex District, comprised of Bellingham, Dover, Franklin, Medfield, Milford, Millis, Needham, Norfolk, Plainville, Sherborn, and Wrentham. Now in her third term, Senator Rausch serves as the Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, and the Vice Chair of the Senate Committee on the Census.*