

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

As a local restaurant (owner/operator) and a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Committee to support and advance **Skip the Stuff** Bill SB26-146, which requires restaurants to only provide single-use cutlery and condiments upon request,

**Current Situation:**

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  - To prevent some customers from complaining about the missing condiments
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  - Others:
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**Why This Bill Matters:**

This legislation is beneficial to our restaurant industry because:

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I urge the committee to vote in favor of **SB26-146** and ensure it moves forward to the floor for a full vote. Prompt action on this issue is essential to save environment and help our industry.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name: Ricky Chen

Address: 6156 Simms St Unit B, Arvada, CO 80004

Tel/Email: EickyChen9593@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Asuka Ramen Poke - ARVADA

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Sincerely,



Name: Yi Xin Zhou

Address: 594 McCaslin Blvd, Louisville, CO 80027

Tel/Email: 303-926-1888

Name of the Organization: Bao Asian Fusion & Sushi Bar

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Sincerely,



Name: Hai Dan Lin

Address: 7303 E 29th Ave, Denver, CO 80238

Tel/Email: hailian627@hotmail.com

Name of the Company: Blue Fin Sushi

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Sincerely,



Name: Rong Jane Li  
Bonchon Denver - Buchtel Blvd  
Buchtel Blvd. 3970 Buchtel Blvd., Denver, CO. 80210  
720- 274-1979

Bonchon Aurora - S Cornerstar Way  
6790 S Cornerstar Way Unit A, Aurora, CO 80016  
303- 731-6866

Bonchon Central Park  
8302 E Northfield Blvd #1590, Denver, CO 80238  
303-248-3220

Bonchon Westminster - Eaton St.  
8805 Eaton St, Westminster, CO 80031  
720- 709-5546

Bonchon Colorado Springs - Cross Peak View  
11010 Cross Peak View Suite 110, Colorado Springs, CO 80921  
719-571-9576,

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Sincerely,



Name: Xy Fan

Address: 3970 N Boradway, Boulder, Co. 80304

Phone/Email: 303-440-0999

Organization Name: China Gourmet

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Sincerely,

*Jia Rui Li Smith*

Name: Jia Rui Li Smith

Address: 11970 Washington Street, Northglenn, CO,80233

Tel: 720-536-5220

Name of the Organization: Chinese Palace

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Sincerely,



Name: Wendy Tong

Address: 2020 S Parker Rd unit i, Denver, CO 80231

Tel/Email: 303-563-9269

Name of the Company: Chopstix Fusion

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Sincerely,



Name: Pin Zheng

Address: 10431 Town Center Dr #101C, Westminster, CO

Tel/Email: 303-635-1888

Name of the Company: East Moon Asian Bistro & Sushi

Address: 1560 Boulder St UNIT 100, Denver, CO 80211

Tel/Email: 720-372-7100

Name of the Company: Mizu Izakaya

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Address: 8939 Park Meadows Center, Littleton, CO. 80124

Phone/Email: 303-662-8366

Organization Name: Edo Higan Sushi

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Sincerely,



Name: Kin W. Wong

Address: 2825 W Alameda Ave #2901, Denver, CO 80219

Tel/Email: 303-250-4322/KinWong2003@yahoo.com

Name of the Company: The Empress Seafood Restaurant

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ALEX XU.

Name: Alex Xu

Address: 2200 W Alameda Ave #34, Denver, CO 80223

Tel/Email: 303-727-9889

Name of the Company: Harbor Dim Sum & Cuisine

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**Sunny Lin**

Name: Sunny Lin

Address: 2797 S Parker Rd, Aurora, CO 80014

Tel/Email: 303-873-9999

Name of the Company: Hiro Japanese Buffet

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Sincerely,

*Vincy Chan*

Name: Vincy Chan

Address: 7262 Broadway, Denver, CO 80221

Tel/Email: 303-650-4880/ howei7262@gmail.com

Name of the Organization: Ho Wei Chinese Restaurant

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Name:

Address: 2770 Arapahoe Rd #112, Lafayette, CO 80026

Tel/Email: 720-372-7033/ hokkaido2770@gmail.com

Name of the Organization: HOKKAIDO SUSHI

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Sincerely,



Name: Ping Yue Zeng

Address: 9882 W Belleview Ave, Littleton, CO 80123

Tel/Email: 303-978-1188

Name of the Organization: Hunan Dynasty Restaurant

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Sincerely,



Name: Ricky Chan

Address: 1528 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80218

Tel/Email: RicjyChan9593@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Izu-Sushi

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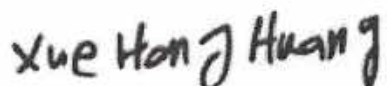
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Sincerely,



Name: Xue Hong Huang

Address: 1824 S Sheridan Blvd, Denver, CO 80232

Tel/Email: 720-308-9578

Name of the Company: King Wok

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Name: Vincy Chan

Address: 7245 N Pecos St, Denver, CO 80221

Tel/Email: konabbq5@gmail.com

Name of the Organization: Kona Hawaiian BBQ- Pecos

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As a local restaurant (owner/operator) and a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Committee to support and advance **Skip the Stuff** Bill SB26-146 , which requires restaurants to only provide single-use cutlery and condiments upon request,

**Current Situation:**

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**Why This Bill Matters:**

This legislation is beneficial to our restaurant industry because:

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- Passing this could help the restaurant industry because
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I urge the committee to vote in favor of **SB26-146** and ensure it moves forward to the floor for a full vote. Prompt action on this issue is essential to save environment and help our industry.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name: Sun Bo

Address: 12203 E. Iliff Ave L-S, Aurora, CO. 80014

Phone/Email: 720-866-9729

Organization Name: Lucky Wok

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

As a local restaurant (owner/operator) and a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Committee to support and advance **Skip the Stuff** Bill SB26-146 , which requires restaurants to only provide single-use cutlery and condiments upon request,

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Sincerely,



Name: Sun Bo

Address: 12203 E. Illif Ave #H, Aurora, CO. 80014

Phone/Email: 720-866-9729

Organization Name: Pho Kim

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Jay Zheng

Address: 1301 Wahington Ave #120, Golden, CO. 80401

Tel/email: 303-404-2800

Name of the Company: Okinawa Sushi

Address: 3927 Tennyson St, Denver, CO. 80212

Tel/email: 303-727-888

Name of the Company: Okinawa Sushi

Address: 2301 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206

Tel/email: 303-322-8886

Name of the Company: Ma's Kitchen Dim Sum & Bar

Address: 1514 York St Denver, CO 80206

Tel/email: (303) 736-8037

Name of the Company: Ma's Kitchen NEXT DOOR

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Kam Choi

Address: 890 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214

Tel: 720-280-4837

Name of the Organization: Metro Pie Pizza

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bo Pan.

Name: Bo Pan

Address: 4251 E Mississippi Ave, Denver, CO 80246

Tel/Email: 303-757-4923

Name of the Organization: Ming's Dynasty

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Sincerely,



Name: Ming Hua Huang

Address: 5873 Palmer Park Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80915

Tel/Email: 719-888-3885

Name of the Company: Moon Star II

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
In Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Sincerely,

**Jianjun Yuan**

Name: Jianjun Yuan

Address: 9328 Jordan Rd #105, Parker, CO 80134

Tel/Email: 978-905-9988/luxiaohuiyjj@gmail.com

Name of the Organization: Nana's Dim Sum & Dumplings- Parker

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Sincerely,



Name: Li Hao Lin

Address: 2852 S Havana St, Aurora, CO 80014

Tel: lihaolin101@gmail

Name of the Organization: Old Town Hot Pot

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Annie Tran  
Address: 1600 E 17th Ave, Denver, CO 80218  
Tel/Email: 408-506-1801  
Name of the Organization: Pho and Bar

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name:

Address: 540 E Alameda Ave, Denver, CO 80209

Tel/Email: 720-989-7548/ JMARJ888@gmail.com

Name of the Organization: Pho Haus

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name:

Address: 2255 Sheridan Blvd, Edgewater, CO 80214

Tel/Email: 8shisosushi8@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Shiso Sushi & Oyster Bar

Address: 1245 E Colfax Ave #103, Denver, CO 80218  
Tel/Email: rockyfinpoke@gmail.com  
Name of the Company: Rocky Fin Poke

Address: 10081 Wadsworth Pkwy, Westminster, CO 80021  
Tel/Email: rockypinpoke2@gmail.com  
Name of the Company: Rocky Fin Poke

Address: 710 W 120th Ave, Westminster CO 80234  
Tel/Email: rockyfinpoke3@gmail.com  
Name of the Company: Rocky Fin Poke

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Ying Wang

Address: 3103 E. Colfax Ave, Denver, CO. 80206

Phone/Email: 720-550-6651

Organization Name: Asuka Ramen and Poke

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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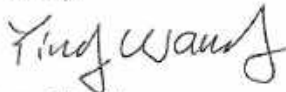
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Sincerely,



Name: Ying Wang

Address: 1870 S Garrison St, Lakewood, CO 80232

Phone/Email: 720-541-7255

Organization Name: Slammin Chicken

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Ying Wang

Address: 1860 S Garrison St, Lakewood, CO 80232

Phone/Email: 720-666-1026

Organization: Tokyo Hibachi Express & Poke

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Ying Wang

Address: 11411 S. Twenty Mile Road, Parker, CO. 80134

Phone/Email: 303-084-1831

Organization Name: Yutaka Japanese Bistro

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Xiu Lin

Address: 2930 arapRo? Erie, CO 80516

Tel/Email: 330-952-9778/ XiuLin52012@mail.com

Name of the Organization: Sapporo Sushi & Grill

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name:

Address: 7470 S Pierce St, Littleton, CO 80128

Tel: 720-922-0123

Name of the Organization: Sawa Sushi

Address: 402 Marshall Rd, Superior, CO 80027

Tel: 720-277-8600

Name of the Organization: Misaki @ Superior

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: George Pappas, Owner  
Address: 2600 E12th Ave, Denver, CO. 80206  
Phone/Email: 303-337-0991  
Name of the Company: Shells and Sauce

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

As a local restaurant (owner/operator) and a concerned citizen, I am writing to urge the Committee to support and advance Skip the Stuff Bill SB26-146, which requires restaurants to only provide single-use cutlery and condiments upon request,

**Current Situation:**

- We have knowingly given away too many condiments to our customers because
  - We never knew what the customers wanted so we packed all kinds of single-use items in the to-go orders
  - To prevent some customers from complaining about the missing condiments
  - Habit
  - Others:
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**Why This Bill Matters:**

This legislation is beneficial to our restaurant industry because:

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I urge the committee to vote in favor of **SB26-146** and ensure it moves forward to the floor for a full vote. Prompt action on this issue is essential to save environment and help our industry.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name: Lisa Xu

Address: 2917 W Mississippi Ave, Denver, CO 80219

Phone/Email: 303-936-0089

Organization Name: Star Kitchen

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Sincerely,



Name: Fang Wang

Address: 8601 W. Cross, Littleton, Co. 80123

Phone/Email: 303-997-5910

Organization Name: ViVi Bubble Tea

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
In Support of SB26-146

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Ricky Chen

Address: 3190 W 72nd Ave, Westminster, CO 80030

Tel/Email: RickyChen9593@gmail.com

Name of the Organization: Wok 99 Express

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

**Xue Hong Huang**

Name: Xue Hong Huang

Address: 3021 S Boradway, Englewood, CO. 80227

Phone/Email: 720-308-9578

Organization Name: Wok Spicy

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name:

Address: 11940 Bradburn Blvd #700, Westminster, CO 80031

Tel/Email: 303-952-9778/ 2595482223@yahoo.com

Name of the Organization: Zen Asian Bistro & Sushi

Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146

Subject: Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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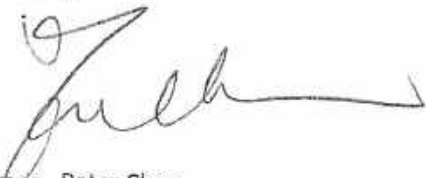
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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name: Peter Chan

Address: 2609 E 12th Ave, Denver, CO 80206

Tel/Email: 303-377-3218

Name of the Company: Peter's Chinese Cafe

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

**Qianqian Lu**

Name: Qianqian Lu

Address: 3316 Tejon St #102, Denver, CO 80211

Tel/Email: 720-999-1820

Name of the Company: Nana's Dim Sum and Dumpling- Denver

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name:

Address: 8767 Sheridan Blvd, Westminster, CO 80003

Tel/Email: 720-730-2019

Name of the Company: One Vietnamese Restaurant

Address: 1080 S Havana St, Aurora, CO 80012

Tel/Email: 303-344-0752

Name of the Company: Pho 99

Address: 702 E Bridge St, Brighton, CO 80601

Tel/Email: 303-659-2735

Name of the Company: Pho TJ

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Yu Liu Huang

Address: 2223 W Wildcat Reserve Pkwy, Littleton, CO 80129

Tel/Email: 303-683-5558huamg720935@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Little Holly's Asia Cafe

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

Dear Chair Willford, and Committee Members,

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Sincerely,



Name:

Address: 2831 E Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80206

Tel/Email: pepperasian1@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Pepper Asian Bistro- Colfax

Address: 3759 Lipan St, Denver, CO 80211

Tel/Email: pepperasian2@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Pepper Asian Bistro II

Address: 100 E 120th Ave UNIT E 110, Northglenn, CO 80233

Tel/Email: pepperasian3@gmail.com

Name of the Company: Pepper Asian Bistro 3

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
in Support of SB26-146**

**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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Sincerely,



Name: Ping Jin Zhang

Address: 11970 Washington St, Northglenn, CO 80233

Tel/Email: 970-663-1188

Name of the Company: China Palace

Address: 18541 E Hampden Ave Ste 126, Aurora, CO

Tel/Email: 303-400-6117

Name of the Company: HoneyBee Asian Bistro & Sushi

**Petition to Members of the House State, Civic, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee  
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**Subject:** Support for Bill SB26-146

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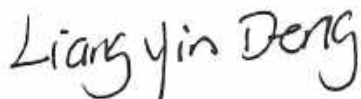
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Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Name: Liang Yin Deng

Address: 18121 E Hampden Ave D, Aurora, CO 80013

Tel/Email: 303-766-7783

Name of the Company: Little Panda Asian Cafe

Dear Health and Human Services Committee,

We are hugely in favor of expanding the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act to include restricting the distribution of single use service ware! We are excited about the reduction of waste and pollution from items given out for take out and fast food that are often not used or end up in the environment. We all know that much of this stuff ends up in glove compartments, in a drawer or in the parking lot and never even used.

Currently there are four states that have “skip the stuff” laws in place; California, Washington, New Jersey and New York. In addition, here in Colorado, Frisco and Denver have this type of law. These laws are popular with customers and businesses.

Currently customers usually have no choice but to take the bag of food and the single use serviceware automatically given to them. So a customer who wants to avoid waste has only one choice: not to eat take out and fast food. This type of legislation gives customers a choice to skip the stuff they don't want or need. In addition, businesses can save money by purchasing fewer disposables. That's a win, win for consumers and businesses.

I'm sure you are aware of the recent reports about microplastics. We now know that plastic never breaks down, it just breaks apart! Microplastics are wreaking havoc on our bodies and our environment.

Three quarters of Americans and 79% of registered voters support local and state policies that reduce single-use plastics, according to a 2023 poll by Oceana. That is pretty impressive support!

This is an easy way to reduce the amount of carbon used to make single use plastic and also reduce pollution and landfill waste. Please vote in favor of **SB26-146**.

Thank you.

FoCo Trash Mob, a Beyond Plastics Affiliate

(based in Fort Collins, CO)





May 4, 2026

The Honorable Jenny Willford  
House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee  
Legislative Services Building  
200 E. 14th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Senate Bill 146 Concerning restricting the distribution of single-use food serviceware.**

Dear Chair Willford, Vice Chair Clifford and members of the House State, Civic, Military, & Veterans Affairs Committee:

On behalf of the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), we are writing in opposition to the Senate Bill 146, unless amended. As currently drafted, this bill would restrict providing single-use food serviceware essential for hygiene and safety to customers unless by request. We support the intent of reducing waste associated with single-use foodservice items but believe paper-based options provide vital hygiene and safety benefits while being a highly sustainable product. As such, we respectfully ask that napkins and cup sleeves be excluded from the definition of “**single-use food serviceware.**”

#### **AF&PA Background**

AF&PA serves to advance public policies that foster economic growth, job creation and global competitiveness for a vital sector that makes the essential paper and packaging products Americans use every day. The U.S. forest products industry employs more than 925,000 people, largely in rural America, and is among the top 10 manufacturing sector employers in 44 states. Our industry accounts for approximately 4.7% of the total U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufacturing more than \$435 billion in products annually. AF&PA member companies are significant producers and users of renewable biomass energy and are committed to making sustainable products for a sustainable future through the industry’s decades-long initiative — [\*Better Practices, Better Planet 2030\*](#).

**In Colorado, the industry employs more than 6,500 individuals, with an annual payroll of over \$386 million. The estimated state and local taxes paid by the forest products industry totals \$28 million annually.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Data sources: U.S. government, AF&PA, and Fastmarkets RISI. Figures are the most recent available as of December 2022.

### **Napkins Provide a Hygiene Benefit**

It is critically important that hygiene opportunities are easy to access in food establishments. For restaurants – be it in-restaurant dining, delivery, or takeout – paper napkins play an important hygiene role. They are used for cleaning hands and to “catch” coughs and sneezes, reducing the likelihood of a spray of potentially viral droplets. Additionally, they can clean a surface such as a table or a steering wheel when a sneeze or cough happens.

### **Cup Sleeves Protect Both Consumers and Businesses**

The primary function of a paper cup sleeve is to provide consumer protection when handling hot beverages. This is not only essential to ensure consumer safety, but also to protect businesses. As currently drafted, SB 146 exposes businesses to liability by limiting their ability to prioritize consumer safety when providing heated beverages. Businesses can either accept this increased liability or risk consumer dissatisfaction by providing lukewarm beverages to reduce potential liability risk.

### **Paper Napkins and Cup Sleeves are Sustainably Produced Products**

Most commercial paper dispenser napkins are made from 100% recycled content, and many brands are fully certified as compostable. Commercial paper napkins provide the beneficial use of paper recovered for recycling that might otherwise end up in landfill. Paper cup sleeves are also manufactured with high recycled content and are recyclable, providing the same benefits.

Paper recycling is an environmental success story. Paper is one of the most widely recycled materials in America, and paper recycling rates in the U.S. have consistently increased in recent decades. The paper industry recycles nearly 60% more paper today than it did in 1990, when the industry set its first recycling rate goal. **In 2024, between 60 and 64 percent of paper and 69 and 74 percent of cardboard available for recovery in the United States was recycled.**<sup>2</sup>

This speaks to the strength and resilience of paper and paper-based packaging recovery while technological innovations in product design and recycling processes are continuously allowing our industry to access and recycle more paper-based products.

### **Conclusion**

AF&PA believes legislation requiring consumers to request napkins and cup sleeves is detrimental to public hygiene, health, safety, and business interests. We encourage the Colorado legislature to avoid measures that penalize paper and, as always, we stand ready to assist you and offer our expertise as a resource as you continue the dialogue on this important issue. Please feel free to contact Frazier Willman, Manager, Government Affairs at [frazier\\_willman@afandpa.org](mailto:frazier_willman@afandpa.org).

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.afandpa.org/priorities/recycling>

Good afternoon members of this committee, my name is Ella Fishman. I am a 15 year old sophomore at Cherry Creek High School, and as a lifelong Colorado resident, I have spent a notable amount of my life in nature; I am thus writing to you today to testify in support of SB26-146, or "Skip the Stuff."

As thankful as I am that "Skip the Stuff" is overarchingly protecting the environmental balance of the state I've grown up in and was born to love, I am also glad that this bill gives Coloradans a choice. SB26-146 protects the unique beauty of Colorado by allowing the people a personalized choice in a service as big as the food industry. Not only do customers have a clear choice, but it also allows workers and owners to save money and lessen waste output.

Alongside being a high school student, I am part of my school's newspaper, the Union Street Journal. As a student journalist, one of the first things I learned is how to be an unbiased learner. I want to prove I care, and I need to be able to listen to people's stories and experiences without doubt or judgement. I am actively learning and utilizing methods of research to do so, but I am also accustomed to willingly learning about topics outside of school. Using the abilities I am actively strengthening, I have learned deeper about the legal and social aspects of our changing climate. I grew up seeing the beauty of our state and am growing to learn why it is important to reserve it.

One of the parts of the journalism class is doing weekly reading logs from articles of our choice. We identify the five W's of journalism, which are the where, what, why, who, and when of an article. Recently, one of the articles I used for these reading logs came from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. My analysis of the EPA's Microplastic Research article helped me determine one thing: microplastics are detrimentally toxic to biological systems, especially in rising temperatures, and the danger impacts human life and animal life.

Bill SB26-146 is the first step in stopping that impact. By lowering the amount of single-use plastic being thrown away, the decrease in microplastics being thrown into Colorado's revered natural environment will help us and the ecosystems we live with. By giving customers the choice on taking single-use plastic, businesses are able to let their consumers feel more in control while also wasting less money on acquiring those single-use plastic utensils. The less they randomly give away resources, the less they have to spend on replenishing those resources. The more choice we have on our order, the more personalized our experiences in restaurants feel.

I go into restaurants enough to take notice of what I throw away and what other people throw away; I go into nature and go hiking enough to know how much has changed over the years; in both areas of my life, I'm scared at how little respect people have grown to have for the workers and the animals. I want to be able to get a job as a teenager that doesn't require me to constantly be cleaning up plastic fork wrappers from the ground, or throwing away trash cans full of plastic bags and napkins. I want to continue growing up able to eat amazing food and see the beauty of our state, and I

want to live in an environment that's healthy enough for me to not make me second-guess getting a plastic straw. "Skip the Stuff" enhances Coloradan's experiences in restaurants and nature while ensuring a safe place for the future.