



February 20, 2019

Representative Ken Helm
Committee on Energy and Environment, Chair
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2883 (Support)

On behalf of our entire Oregon chapter network, our greater membership and our thousands of Oregon supporters and volunteers, the Surfrider Foundation would like to express our strong support for HB 2883, a bill to eliminate expanded polystyrene foam within food vendors and take-out establishments. EPS (also known as Polystyrene or Styrofoam™) take-out food and beverage containers are normally used once for a very short time before they become waste, and often ocean litter, with enduring negative impacts to our environment. Single-use EPS is problematic because it is an especially light form of plastic that breaks apart and blows into our environment, persists in our oceans never biodegrading, absorbs toxins and is often mistakenly consumed by marine animals. Through Surfrider Foundation's volunteer cleanup programs along our coast, EPS foam is consistently one of the top 3 items found and is extremely challenging to remove from the environment.

As many of the comments and previous testimony will provide varied industry, recycling and environmental perspectives, we would like to offer our unique coastal perspective. As coastal residents, we live adjacent to one of our state's most valuable economic and ecological resources, the beach and ocean. We live on this rural edge and witness the degradation of our marine life and as rural residents understand waste management differently than those with the urban resources of Portland and the Willamette valley. For many birds, fish and many other forms of marine life, foam particles can resemble plankton and even eggs of other animals and are mistaken for food. From the very bottom to the top of the food chain foam particles are all too often ingested, carry toxins up the ocean food chain, toxins that can also be found in humans. Plastic marine debris persists in our oceans for lifetimes and as such Oregon's Marine Debris Action Plan includes recommended statewide actions to support source reduction of plastic pollution.

While we heard testimony of "inland" recycling aspirations, our rural waste management reality on the coast is much different than that of the metro area. For our coastal communities that do have some solid recycling and waste management options, foam is still not enough of a commodity worth our coastal haulers collection. We also believe that the nature of the consumption of take-out food and other "to-go" food vendor goods does not lend itself well for recycling programs. Similar to other items like straws, lids, and food wrappers, EPS foam take-out is a constant in the environment often because of where and how these items are consumed. While food vendors and establishments can prevent

leakage (litter), manage waste and provide recycling opportunities on site, once out the door these items are not as easily managed. For these reasons and the pervasive nature of EPS foam on our beaches and in our oceans, we urge your support of HB 2883.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Plybon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C" and "P".

Charlie Plybon
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