



To: Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
From: Paige Spence, Oregon Conservation Network Director
Date: May 21, 2019
RE: Support for HB 2883A

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2883. On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, I would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters' (OLCV) strong support.

OLCV coordinates the Oregon Conservation Network (OCN), a coalition of 34 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

HB 2883 would ban food vendors from using polystyrene containers in selling, offering for sale, serving or dispensing prepared food. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam food packaging is a very significant litter issue. While it represents only 1% of the waste stream, it comprises 10-40% of the litter collected during stream cleanups. The fragile nature of EPS foam causes it to break into millions of tiny pieces upon entering our environment, making it nearly impossible to successfully remove from our waterways. Once in this microplastic size form, it is easily mistaken for food by marine life, and is being found back upstream in consumables from tap and bottled water, to table salt and beer.

Thank you for hearing this bill today. We urge your support of the base bill, but would also support the -A12 amendment.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence
Oregon Conservation Network Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters
321 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 600
Portland, OR 9720

