

Dear Legislators,

May 20th, 2019

Plastic pollution is a growing problem, responsible for country-sized swirling gyres of plastic waste in our oceans and growing landfills in our country's interior. This pollution is damaging our ecosystems and endangering public health.

Every day, people throw away millions of disposable plastic items, including polystyrene cups and containers. Polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as Styrofoam, is among the worst forms of plastic pollution. Like all plastics, it does not biodegrade but breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces, which means every bit of polystyrene ever made is still out there. Often, these pieces are swept into our waterways, ending up in our oceans and lakes.

Scientists have found plastic fragments in hundreds of species, including 86% of sea turtle species and nearly half of all seabird and marine mammal species. Ingesting these fragments is often fatal, as evidenced recently by a dead Sperm whale that washed up on the coast of Spain with 64 pounds of plastic in its stomach. This plastic will continue to pollute our water and threaten wildlife for centuries to come.

Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our planet for hundreds of years. That's why we support House Bill 2883, a ban on polystyrene cups and food containers in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director
Environment Oregon

Kelly Campbell
Executive Director
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Darcy O'Brien
State Board Chair
OSPIRG Students

Paige Spence
Oregon Conservation Network Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland

Jen Coleman
Health Comms and Outreach Director
Oregon Environmental Council

Gregory Haller
Conservation Director
Pacific Rivers

Rhett Lawrence
Conservation Director
Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter

Noah Greenwald
Endangered Species Director
Center for Biological Diversity

Lisa Arkin
Executive Director
Beyond Toxics

Todd Buchholz
Chair
Surfrider Foundation, Coos Bay Chapter

Vince Pappalardo
Volunteer Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation, Newport Chapter

Chanel Hason
Chair
Surfrider Foundation, Portland Chapter

Serena Orsinger
Leader
Earth Guardians, 350 South Eugene High School

Mike Brinkley
Political Chair
Sierra Club, Many Rivers Group

Alyssa Gilbert
Chapter Chair
OSPIRG Students, UO Chapter

Ciara Wyatt
Student Leader
OSPIRG Students, LCC Chapter

Darcy O'Brien
Chapter Chair
OSPIRG Students, SOU Chapter