



May 21, 2019

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Michael Dembrow, Vice-Chair Alan Olsen and members of the committee:

Recology, Inc. is an employee-owned resource recovery company, devoted to diverting waste from landfills. Recology has more than forty-five operating companies that serve more than 725,000 residential and 110,000 commercial customers in Oregon, California and Washington. In Oregon, Recology provides hauling services and operates recycling and compost sites around the state.

At Recology Oregon, we are pleased that the legislature is looking to prohibit the use of polystyrene food containers from commercial restaurants and facilities. Polystyrene food containers are rarely recycled since they are difficult to collect, clean and transport to the right processing facility. In most cases, a polystyrene food container ends up in the trash and transported to landfills or discarded along the roadsides with the plastic bags in which it was served.

Recology supports reducing the use of food polystyrene containers and other non-recyclable containers. We hope this will lead to a transition to containers that can and will be recycled.

Our motto is waste zero. We encourage reduction, reuse and recycling of one-time use products such as polystyrene food containers, as much as possible. We think this effort to limit the use of polystyrene food containers is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for your leadership,

Carl Peters
General Manager, Recology Northern Oregon Operations and Recology Oregon Compost