

From the Desk of Sen. Denbrow 



Vote Yes on House Bill 2883-A

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and our tens of thousands of members and supporters across Oregon, we encourage you to vote in favor of House Bill 2883-A.

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, a ban on polystyrene foam cups and food containers in Oregon.

Our country and world's addiction to plastic 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, harming wildlife and endangering public health. Every day, people throw away millions of disposable plastic items, including polystyrene foam cups and containers.

Why ban polystyrene foam takeout containers and cups?

- Polystyrene foam is one of the most prevalent forms of single-use plastic pollution, both in Oregon and across the country. The Ocean Conservancy consistently ranks polystyrene foam containers among the top 10 most commonly found forms of beach trash in the International Coastal Cleanup.
- Polystyrene foam is lightweight and breaks apart easily, contributing to its dispersal in the environment, being swept into our waterways and ending up in our lakes and oceans, harming wildlife.
- It takes hundreds of years for polystyrene foam to biodegrade, if it does at all.
- Polystyrene foam is not taken in curbside recycling in Oregon. There is a carveout in this bill for restaurants that want to use and properly recycle polystyrene takeout containers and cups by taking them to the appropriate recycling facilities.
- Portland has had a ban on polystyrene takeout containers and cups for thirty years, and the cities of Florence, Silverton, Medford, and Milwaukie have polystyrene bans in place. Nationally, New York City, Miami Beach, Seattle and San Francisco, along with over 200 other cities, have all moved to restrict the use of polystyrene and have seen a reduction in foam litter.

Please vote yes on House Bill 2883-A.

Thank you,

Environment Oregon
Oregon Conservation Network
Oregon Environmental Council
Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter
Surfrider Foundation, Oregon Chapter