

February 10, 2023

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support Senate Bill 543, Phasing out polystyrene foodware and PFAS in food packaging

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

As a north Oregon coast resident, I urge you to support Senate Bill 543, phasing out polystyrene foodware and PFAS in food packaging. As someone who regularly picks up plastic and polystyrene on the beach regularly, I know firsthand how they are hurting people and wildlife.

Polystyrene, aka Styrofoam, is not reused, is not accepted in curbside recycling and is one of the top items found polluting Oregon's beaches. It is an eyesore on our beaches. Our coastal communities rely on tourism. This pollution hurts our ability to attract and retain visitors. And residents don't like it either! We live here largely because it is beautiful and pristine. As it becomes less so, coastal life and visitation is less attractive.

Polystyrene readily breaks into small pieces, which we are unable to clean up. Wildlife eats it and inevitably some of it is then eaten by people as part of shellfish and fish we eat.

Portland banned polystyrene in the 1990s and business has been just fine. Many other cities have followed suit and now we need a consistent rule, statewide. There are lots of paper-based alternatives available at reasonable costs.

Thank you for supporting SB 543, for us and for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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