

Submitter: Anne Marie Eklund

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure: SB543

This letter is in strong support of SB 543. Plastic pollution is a major issue here in Oregon and worldwide. Although many municipalities have already banned the use of polystyrene by food vendors, the vast majority of the State is not included in those bans. We need a state-wide ban to stop the use of styrofoam and the extremely harmful PFAS on the linings of our food containers. PFAS is harmful to human health, yet it is used routinely with food. Plastic, including polystyrene, is currently being produced by the fossil fuel industry at an alarming rate. Consumers do not want to use polystyrene. The production of plastic is an unusual instance of the supply far outweighing the demand because the fossil fuel industry produces it as a by-product of fracking. Consumers will be delighted to see polystyrene go away completely. This bill is a win for all Oregon residents. My only word of caution is to make sure that in the language of the bill, there is not a loophole that could lead vendors to replace polystyrene with rigid plastic food containers. There are biodegradable options that should be used instead.

Thank you very much for your consideration.