



February 14, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Energy & Environment  
FR: Charlie Fisher, OSPIRG  
RE: Support for SB 543, 544, 545

OSPIRG is a statewide, grassroots, public interest organization representing thousands of Oregonians.

**OSPIRG supports SB 543, SB 544, & SB 545 as important plastic reduction policies.**

Every day Oregonians throw away tons of single-use plastic containers and other plastic “stuff.” One of the worst forms of plastic pollution is polystyrene foam, the plastic they use to make foam coffee cups and takeout containers. Polystyrene can take hundreds of years to fully degrade and can’t be recycled. Which means that every piece ever made is still out there clogging our landfills, littering our streets, and polluting our environment.

Nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute our future for hundreds of years. Oregon has already made progress getting beyond single use plastic by passing a statewide ban on plastic bags and municipalities, including Portland, have bans on foam. Now it’s time to take the next step and pass a statewide ban on foam.

Over the past couple years, OSPIRG’s citizen outreach project has spoken to thousands of Oregonians about banning polystyrene cups and takeout containers and the response has been overwhelmingly supportive. Our members and the public are calling on state lawmakers to support this common sense policy to reduce some of the worst kinds of single-use plastic. Many of the people we talk to are surprised this hasn’t been done yet.

OSPIRG urges you to support SB 543, SB 544, & SB 545 to reduce plastic waste in Oregon.