

Submitter: John Ostrom

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: SB543

Hello Oregon House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment (Chair Marsh, Vice-Chair Levy, Vice-Chair Levy, and Members of the Committee):

I'm providing testimony today in support of Senate Bill 543 A "Relating to prohibitions for certain products." This is one of several bills that was initiated this session in the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment dealing with the prevention of plastic pollution. I applaud their efforts and yours as well in the consideration of legislation dealing with plastic pollution and zero waste goals. I was happy to hear that this bill passed out of the Senate and has now made its way to your House committee.

Concerning SB 543 A, as this bill moves through the legislative process, I would like to express my support for this very important step to prohibit food vendors from using polystyrene foam containers in the sales of prepared food. This bill allows meaningful progress in minimizing plastic pollution at the source.

In the words of Environment Oregon, "Every day, people throw away millions of pieces of single-use plastic "stuff," and too much of it ends up polluting our environment. By design, plastic takes hundreds of years to fully degrade, which means every piece of plastic ever produced is still out there, sitting in landfills or floating in the ocean, waiting to be mistaken as a deadly piece of food by a bird, turtle or whale. Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our oceans and rivers for hundreds of years."

That's why I'm expressing my support for SB 543 A to you today as you discuss and decide the fate of this bill in the Oregon Legislature and to hopefully make Oregon Foam-Free.

Thank you for all of your public service!

Sincerely,

John K. Ostrom
Eugene, OR