

Submitter: Katy Caroline

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: SB543

I am writing in support of SB 543 on behalf of myself, my community, and our environment as a concerned citizen who hopes to pass on to future generations a safer and healthier world to live in. Polystyrene (PS), in particular PS foam, may be a cheap and effective packaging material for food and fragile goods, but that ease of packaging comes at a steep environmental and public health cost. This cost is becoming more and more evident as studies have come to show that microplastics--in part resulting from PS that has disintegrated in water without degrading--are now present in our ocean water, in the fish and other aquatic life that we eat, and even in ourselves and developing fetal tissues; the presence of these microplastics are substantial factors in the development of various cancers, birth defects, a swath of neuroendocrine issues, and infertility. Continuing to allow the unchecked, unfettered distribution of PS foam containers in commerce poses serious risks for ourselves and future generations as these build up to toxic levels. The long term side effects of these microplastics will be most evident in more vulnerable communities, namely communities of color, that already have other negative externalities that contribute to worse health outcomes in the long run.

I ask those considering this Bill to think of their children and potential grandchildren, as well as the children of others. Although the immediate consequences of this pollution into our environment may not be felt by you, it will surely be felt by others for many generations to come. Addressing the problem now is our best hope to stave off a potential public health crisis in the future.