

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley and members of committee, for the record my name is Ellie Shatto, and I am a Freshman at University of Oregon, studying Environmental Science and Planning, Public Policy, and Management. I am an intern with OSPIRG students focusing on the beyond plastic campaign.

OSPIRG Students is a statewide student-run, student-funded, nonprofit working towards our greener, healthier, more meaningful future. This year our Beyond Plastics campaign is our lead campaign, educating students at the University of Oregon on the importance of breaking free from single use plastics. Nothing we use for 15 minutes should pollute our environment for hundreds of years. Our society is built around single use plastics that we are encouraged to rapidly make, use, and throw away. One of the absolute worst offenders of this is polystyrene, foam takeout cups and containers. About 70 million plastic foam cups are disposed of by Americans every day. Of these, about one third end up in waterways and the remaining waste will spend hundreds and thousands of years sitting in landfills.

I moved to Portland, Oregon from Las Vegas, Nevada in middle school. Oregon is so vastly different from Nevada. Oregon is known for its beauty, and it is what made me want to study Environmental Science. My favorite part of Oregon is the trees, lakes, rivers, and the ocean. My family's favorite thing to do together is going kayaking. Moving beyond plastics is important to me because when you are walking through the beautiful scenery, it gets ruined by the plastic pollution. Plastic is stuck in the bushes I pass when I hike and on the shores of the lakes I kayak in.

Reducing plastic pollution is important to Oregon's young people. We hope that the Oregon legislature finally passes a ban on polystyrene foam takeout containers and cups this session and takes other actions to help move our state beyond plastic.