

Commissioner Jules Bailey

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March 5, 2015

Dear Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for HB 2762, which phases out the use of Styrofoam (polystyrene) trays, plates, food containers and food packaging in the Oregon public schools. I first learned about this issue in 2013 while serving in the Legislature during a joint town hall meeting with Senator Diane Rosenbaum. The children from Michele Strobel's classes at Sunnyside Environmental School presented their findings and asked us to look into passing legislation to fix this problem.

According to the EPA, polystyrene is the 5th highest source of hazardous waste in the world. The use of this product in food service was banned by the city of Portland in 1989 and I believe it's time for all public schools in Oregon to follow suit. This is not only an environmental issue, it also imperative for our children's health. They should not be eating food that is served on materials that emit harmful chemicals.

I'm proud of these students for putting in such hard work on this issue and am excited to see them not only engaged in protecting our environment but also in the legislative process. I commend Rep. Nosse for bringing this legislation forward and ask that you all consider supporting this legislation to protect our kids.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jules Bailey".

Jules Bailey
Multnomah County Commissioner, District 1