

**To:** House Energy and Environment Committee

**Date:** March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**From:** Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum

**RE:** HB 2762

Chair Vega Pederson and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2762. For the record, I am Senator Diane Rosenbaum from Senate District 21 which includes inner Southeast Portland, Milwaukie and Oak Grove. This bill has been brought forth by my constituents, and aims at helping Oregon's kids become healthier while also preventing waste in our environment.

According to postings by the Environmental Protection Agency, polystyrene used to contain food or drink products can take up to hundreds of years to degrade. It is also the largest source of marine litter worldwide. The US Department of Health and Human Services, the National Toxicology Program and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry all agree that styrene is "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen". For these reasons, cities across the United States like New York City, Sunnyvale California and Portland Oregon have placed a ban on polystyrene.

With all that we know about the harmful effects that polystyrene poses to our environment and public health, it was surprising to hear that children in our schools are still being exposed. House Bill 2762 will require our schools to follow suit in finding more sustainable alternatives to serve food with. I am sure you will hear from the class at Sunnyside Environmental School about the research they did that lead to the creation of HB 2762. I know you will also hear about the sustainable alternatives these students, teachers and families have developed in place of using polystyrene. In the spirit of their efforts, I urge your 'yes' vote on HB 2762.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Rosenbaum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Diane Rosenbaum  
Senate Majority Leader  
Senate District 21