



Oregon Green Schools Association

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To: Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee

The Oregon Green Schools Association is a nonprofit organization mobilizing schools across the state in waste reduction and resource efficiency programs. We provide support and mentorship to students and their school green team leaders as they set up and maintain sustainable practices throughout their schools and complete our step-by-step certification process. Specifically, our program focuses on waste reduction and recycling, water conservation, and energy conservation or as we like to say, "watts, water and waste."

In accordance with our mission to conserve resources and reduce waste, we encourage you to support the House Bill 2762 which Representative Nosse has introduced. This bill will help schools to reduce one of the largest components of their solid waste, polystyrene trays. While not all schools continue to serve meals on these single-use trays, many still do, accounting for up to 30% of their overall garbage.

An important part of our program is to motivate students to incorporate the environmental ethic that they learn as a student of an Oregon Green School into their daily lives, beyond the school building and grounds. Students that attend schools where single-use polystyrene trays are used are unintentionally being sent the message that waste is an unavoidable part of growing up. This may lead them to draw the conclusion that it is acceptable to waste resources by leaving the lights on when they leave an empty room, taking long showers or drinking bottled water instead of from the tap. We want Oregon's schools to reflect the message that conserving resources is important. We hope that you do too by supporting HB 2762.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about Oregon Green Schools feel free to contact me.

Mark Nystrom, Board Member at Large
Oregon Green Schools Association

