



P.O. Box 1525
Lake Oswego, OR 97035
osna@osna.us

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ATTN: Oregon State Legislature House Committee on Energy and Environment

Distinguished Legislators,

As the President of the Oregon School Nutrition Association, I feel it is important to communicate on behalf of our 500 members that the passage of House Bill 2762 would place undue hardship on the school districts we represent.

While the intent of this bill is clearly positive, the responsibility to solve this issue is being placed on the wrong group. Isn't it time to look at the bigger picture? There are currently very few companies who will accept polystyrene for recycling, regardless of the fact that it can be recycled. Our environment will be only partially helped by this measure.

It is time to take Oregon to the level of leadership on par with the Bottle Bill passed so many years ago, which means requiring waste management companies to accept and recycle polystyrene. If waste management companies require funds, the State of Oregon should provide tax incentives or grants to the organizations to help them meet their goals. California has passed Assembly Bill 32, requiring organizations to reduce their carbon footprint by the year 2020. It is time for Oregon to go big with its support of the environment, as was done with the Bottle Bill.

As a Nutrition Services Director in an Oregon school district with a Leed Gold School Building, we understand and support the need for change and improvement. We have researched polystyrene recycling locally and sourced solutions nationally. There is equipment available to recycle polystyrene, but in our district of nine schools it would cost \$135,000 to adequately implement the process.

Further, our local waste management company does not accept polystyrene, so in order to recycle it, we would have to send our waste to a company in Portland. We would also be required to pay for pickup. This is not a solution for a school district close to Portland, much less the districts in Eastern, Central or Southern Oregon.

The passage of this bill will be another unfunded mandate forced upon schools in the wake of so many in the recent years. School district Nutrition Services programs are required to break even and be self-supporting if they are not to drain the general fund education dollars. This bill will be another obstacle for programs to be self-supporting and may take solvent programs into a negative position. Please do not support House Bill 2762.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Hiatt-Henry
2014-2015 President, Oregon School Nutrition Association