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Dear Legislators,

I am writing to voice my deep concerns about:

HB 2762: Requires school districts to eliminate use of polystyrene foam plates, tray, food container or food packaging in service of any meal.

We are a small district of: 2,338 students. We have 7 schools and 2 vended schools that we provide breakfast and lunch. Currently we have 4 central cooking kitchens and we transport to 5 schools. The transport schools have 1 server that only goes over for serving and the kitchens are not equipped with dishwashers or facilities for washing the dishes. Clean trays will need to be delivered daily and dirty trays will need to be immediately collected and returned to transport kitchens to be washed.

The upfront cost of purchasing the minimal amount of trays for each school is huge. Not to mention the additional time needed for the distributing and bring back of all dirty trays from the transport schools. We are already overwhelmed by cleaning up the serving dishes and utensils that come back daily. We will see added costs for cleaning up trays as we will probably have to hire a dishwashing crew especially to accommodate the transport schools.

The cost of compostable trays will not only increase our expenses but we will also see a cost for separate collection and transporting to composting facilities.

With the tough regulations that have been put upon us we are seeing that we are increasing our labor to do much more scratch cooking and cutting up and preparing more fruits and vegetables. With these regulations have come many cost increases in labor hours. Please do not make us incur yet another labor increase. In Eastern Oregon we have many small schools where employee's wear many hats: cook, server, janitor and bus driver. This added job of washing dishes may serve to be very costly, being so small and with many expenses some of these schools are already struggling to make ends meet.

Forcing compostable trays on us all at once could be very detrimental for many small schools who are already struggling to make ends meet.

Pam Suyematsu



Ontario School District Mission Statement: All students will be equipped with the skills for lifelong learning and graduate as responsible adults prepared for college or career.