

To: Senate Committee on Education

From: Sarah Martinez, ECO-Products

RE: HB 2762 support

My name is Sarah Martinez, Sustainability Maven for Eco-Products. Eco-Products is a leading brand of foodservice packaging made out of renewable resources and post-consumer recycled content. My role is to make sure we consider the environment in all we do and use our brand as a platform for advocating environmental issues.

Why we are focused on environmentally preferable foodservice packaging?

- Because the earth is currently supporting over 7 billion people, and this number is fast increasing.
- Because our natural resources are limited. As our population grows and standards of living rise, there is increased demand on the resources that enable our lifestyles. Given this fact, we believe it is absolutely imperative for us to be thoughtful about the products we use, where they come from, and what happens to them after we are done using them.

While we advocate for reusables whenever possible, our culture of convenience and the infrastructure required to support reusables demand the use of disposable products. Given the pressure on natural resources that I mentioned, if we are going to use disposable products, we need to rethink how they are made.

- EPS comes from petroleum, our most economically valuable nonrenewable resource. When oil is gone, it's gone. To use this resource for something that will get used for 15 minutes and tossed aside just does not make sense to us. We need to accept the fact that there is no "away" in "throwing something away." All of our trash goes somewhere real, despite the fact we'd love to forget this when we toss it in a bin. And we all know that EPS manufactured today will not break down in any of our lifetimes.
- When children use foam products, we are telling them it is okay to use nonrenewable resources for disposable purposes. We are telling them we don't need to think about future generations who won't have the luxury of doing the same thing. We are telling them we don't need to think about the impacts of our choices. This is irresponsible.
- When children hold a tray or a cup made from renewable resources such as sugarcane and corn, they can be taught that it is possible to use resources that can be grown again and again to make products that provide convenience. They realize that such products can return to the soil if the local infrastructure supports commercial composting. They can begin to understand the link between the products we use and our legacy on the earth.

School districts in New York, LA, Chicago, Orlando, and Texas are using compostable foodservice products and telling their students that it is not okay to use petroleum to make something that gets sent to a landfill. Eco-Products proudly serves the University of Oregon and Oregon State campuses, helping those schools demonstrate their commitment to a more sustainable future. This shift is happening. We are starting to change our culture and our behavior. Oregon has an opportunity to be a leader in this important paradigm shift. I encourage you to implement this ban and enable your students, the next generation, to be better stewards of this planet.

Thank you for your time and consideration of HB 2762.

Sarah Martinez | Sustainability Maven

Eco-Products, Inc.

4755 Walnut St., Boulder CO 80301 USA

www.ecoproducts.com

smartinez@ecoproducts.com | Direct: 1.720.542.6355