

**To: Senate Committee on Education**

**From: Michelle Strobel**

**Re: HB 2762**

Hello, my name is Michelle Strobel. I teach 1st and 2nd grade at Sunnyside Environmental School in Portland. I am here to introduce you to a group of kids, kindergarten through 4th grade, that have been tirelessly researching the effects of polystyrene lunch trays on our health, the environment, and on animals. We started this journey with an informal discussion spurred by a book we read in which some cities dumped garbage into the ocean. The discussion took on a life of it's own and headed into the direction of polystyrene lunch trays that many schools use that are then thrown away. This shocked the kids, who have never known disposable lunch trays, our school uses washable, reusable lunch trays. The kids thought this was wrong so we took the issue to a town hall meeting and they spoke in front of a local representative and senator. Not realizing this problem even existed we were encouraged to do some research on the issue. We came here to the capitol, spoke in front of the House Committee on Energy and Environment, Representative Rob Nosse, picked up our idea, more research, a bill was written, long story short, it passed the house vote and now we are here to tell *you* why it's important that you support HB 2762.

Thank you for your time.