

Subject: statewide styrofoam ban

I am a parent of two school aged kids. I understand that HB 2762 is scheduled for a public hearing on May 19th in the Senate Education Committee. I would like to add my support for passing legislation that would remove Styrofoam trays and other food service ware from school cafeterias around the state. Styrofoam is a neurotoxin and there is evidence that the chemicals used to make this material readily leach into food when it comes into contact with it - especially warm food. I would like to see this material banned from food service in the state in general but school kids and their growing bodies are especially at risk from the harmful effects of the nasty chemicals that comprise Styrofoam. Healthier, safer and in some cases, cheaper (over the long run) alternatives exist. It makes perfect sense to me to eliminate this potential cause of health problems for children. Styrofoam is also a material which is not widely recyclable and creates awful by-products in the manufacturing process. It breaks up in to smaller bits in our environment becoming more and more ubiquitous in our landscape - causing problems for birds and fish and other wildlife. Lawmakers should do everything they can to protect the health and well-being of Oregon children as well as the environment in our beautiful state. HB 2762 is a great step toward that goal. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Jaylen Schmitt