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To: Members of the Senate Education Committee
From: Betty Patton, Recycling Advocates President
Date: May 19, 2015
RE: House Bill 2762

Chair Arnie Roblan and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the members and supporters of Recycling Advocates, I am pleased to present testimony in support of House Bill 2762. Formed in 1987, Recycling Advocates (RA) is Oregon's only citizen-based, grassroots group dedicated to creating a sustainable future through local efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

House Bill 2762 would phase out the use of polystyrene plates, trays, food containers, and food packaging in Oregon's public schools. In addition to just being a sensible idea from a waste reduction standpoint, this is also a legacy issue for Recycling Advocates. We played a major role in the decision of the City of Portland to ban the use of polystyrene food containers in food service establishments in the late 1980s.

Recycling Advocates is disappointed that the original language of the bill has been watered down allowing opportunities to avoid the regulation. However, for those schools that take a leadership role in creating a sustainable future, we believe this bill could go a long way toward reducing the waste impacts for Oregon's schools, many of which count polystyrene food containers as one of their largest sources of waste. This is common-sense legislation which is likely to have very little economic impact on our schools, while having a very significant effect on waste reduction.

Recycling Advocates supports HB 2762 and we urge this Committee to do the same. Thank you very much for considering our comments and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

President, Recycling Advocates