



Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: Environment Oregon on HB 2883 amendments

Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. We support House Bill 2883 because we believe that nothing we use for ten minutes should pollute the environment for hundreds of years. **Furthermore, we support the proposed -7 and -8 amendments as clarifications to the bill that don't detract from its central purpose. However, we are opposed to the proposed -1 and -2 amendments, and strongly opposed to the proposed -9 amendment.**

Additional efforts to improve the state's recycling system and increase recycling rates for food service materials are welcome and necessary, but at the end of the day the simplest way to reduce the amount of plastic that ends up in our environment is by using less single-use plastic in the first place. Oregon's lakes, rivers, and wildlife can't afford to wait while we improve our recycling system, and restricting the use of polystyrene takeout containers is a widely supported, common-sense step that the Legislature can take right now to reduce plastic pollution.

In addition, and as stated above, Environment Oregon is strongly opposed to the -9 amendment that would preempt cities, counties, and local governments across the state from adopting their own regulations regarding polystyrene food containers. Municipalities across the state have taken or are considering their own actions to restrict polystyrene takeout containers for a variety of reasons, and they should continue to be able to make that choice.

We know the costs of plastic pollution, and the first step in dealing with this problem is preventing pollution in the first place by banning single-use polystyrene takeout containers. Efforts to delay real action on this important issue or limit local governments' ability to restrict plastic pollution themselves

fail to reckon with the fact that the best way to limit plastic pollution is by not using single-use plastic in the first place. Oregonians have raised their voices and made it clear that they want the state to be a leader on plastic pollution and take real action to protect our precious rivers, coasts, natural areas and wildlife, so **we urge the Committee to move HB2883 forward without the -1, -2, or -9 amendments.**

Sincerely,

John Ammondson

Fellow, Environment Oregon