

## Watts Remy

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**From:** angiedero <angiedero@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** Vote No on HB 2883

I am writing to voice opposition to HB 2883.

I am first and foremost an advocate of reducing and reusing, with recycling as a fall back. I use reusable bags and containers where I can control containers. Where I can't, I try to purchase food/products in containers made from polystyrene because this is the only disposable that can be recycled here in Oregon—and not just condensed and shipped overseas, but actually reclaimed as a renewable raw ingredient. It is a huge frustration that most grocers, restaurants, event venues, and vendors offer only non-polystyrene containers knowing every one of them will end up in the garbage. It is irresponsible.

It took effort on my part to switch gears from using #1 or #5 plastic to using foam or #6. That polystyrene is evil was well-known, I had habits in place for purchasing and a very nice system of sorting plastics that don't go in Portland's blue bin. Once PS became recyclable, I added a bin for that. With the ban from China it is now the only bin that empties. The others continue to stack up with lids, produce boxes and food service ware.

Metro, the City of Portland, the State Environ. Services all tell me to take these bins to the landfill—except the polystyrene bin; that one they tell me to take to Agilyx in Tigard, which I do. Anything else is garbage. It boggles my mind that the State is even considering this bill to ban the one plastic we can actually do something about right here in Oregon. I cannot imagine the Committee members do not know of this recycling resource—it's been on the news, on Metro's web site, in the paper. A bill this far along certainly has been properly researched by now? I drop off foam and #6 plastics there about twice per month. It is astounding to see how much foam is being diverted from landfills. There is a steady stream of people from all over the Metro area dropping off foam and plastics. It's actually very social—we're all so happy to have this resource in Oregon that we end up telling our stories of how we found it, who we've told, etc. Last week I met a Salem woman who had a huge stack of foam to-go containers she'd been storing. She told me she was also collecting from neighbors—which is what I do. When they have a foam container, or packaging or CD cases, they toss them in my box and I bring it in. A couple months ago I met a man who works in Gresham and lives in Tigard. He collects foam at the Vet office where he works, and brings it in on his day off. I've met people driving in from the coast, Hillsboro and Vancouver. They gather from neighbors and make a delivery when they have a full load.

If the Senators have not been to this recycling center to talk to the citizens who are collecting and bringing in these foams and plastics, you should set this bill aside until you have.

I get it that Agilyx may not be an accessible resource for the rest of the country, but HB 2883 isn't a federal bill. It's an Oregon bill. It is supposed to be for us. We can do something with this one type of disposable right here. To force Oregonians into using any and every other type of container than the one thing we can properly dispose of is just crazy! And too many other synonyms! We don't even have a facility in Oregon for compostable dishware. I do not get it why the legislature is pushing for MORE going into landfills. It just does not make sense.

On the other hand, the whole country figured it out to ship plastics overseas to China; it isn't much of a stretch to think they'll figure out how to send it to Oregon.

I will continue to advocate reuse. I will also hold faith that someone will figure out a recycling/reuse solution for other plastics. I mean, chemists figured out how to reuse polystyrene, previously the most obnoxious of plastics waste. If that can happen, I have full confidence and faith that someone will come up with a local solution for the rest.

I heard it said once that “people won’t recycle their containers”. I disagree entirely, however, if that were true, then it would also be true that people aren’t going to carry around reusable to-go containers either. It is way more likely to get people to recycle a foam container.

In the meantime, while reusables are gotten into wider use, where a disposable is required, I will advocate the use of PS so we can do our part to reduce size and congestion of landfills.

Sincerely,

Angie

SE Portland

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy, powered by Cricket Wireless