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To: Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: May 21, 2019

RE: House Bill 2883

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee: Good afternoon, my name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members and supporters in Oregon, I am pleased to offer this written testimony in support of House Bill 2883.

As an organization with a long history working to protect Oregon's waterways and wildlife and to reduce waste and litter in our state, we believe that HB 2883 is worthy of your support. As you know, this legislation would prohibit Oregon food vendors from using polystyrene containers in selling, offering for sale, serving, or dispensing prepared food to a member of the public. Given the scourge of plastics in our society – clogging our waterways, littering roadsides, killing our aquatic life, and degrading in our oceans – it is time to take decisive action on polystyrene.

Cities across Oregon and around the world have led the way over the years and have shown that consumers and businesses can do just fine without Styrofoam containers. The City of Portland disallowed the use of such containers almost 30 years ago and never looked back. These sorts of bans have been shown to have immediate and remarkable effect on our waste streams and we need to take this policy statewide.

For these reasons, we strongly support House Bill 2883 and we urge this Committee to do the same. Thank you very much for considering my comments and please don't hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance to the Committee.