



— FROM THE DESK OF —
Representative Dexter



****NW Grocery Association & Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association are neutral****

Please vote YES on Senate Bill 543 to phase out polystyrene foam foodware, packing peanuts and coolers, and PFAS in food packaging



Expanded polystyrene is a form of foamed plastic made from fossil fuels commonly used for food containers and packaging. This disposable packaging is usually thrown away after a single use and breaks up easily into smaller pieces that are hard to clean up, disperse rapidly due to their lightweight nature, and can persist in the environment for centuries. Plastic foam is not accepted in curbside recycling and is one of the top items found polluting Oregon's beaches.

PFAS are a class of highly fluorinated toxic chemicals used in many food containers and packaging due to their oil-, stain- and water- repellent properties. PFAS are "forever chemicals" that accumulate in the environment and our bodies and are linked to cancer, high cholesterol, reproductive and thyroid problems, and immune suppression.

Senate Bill 543 would phase out polystyrene foam foodware, packing peanuts and coolers, and phase out PFAS from food packaging starting on January 1, 2025.

Ashland, Eugene, Florence, Lincoln City, Medford, Milwaukie, Newport, Portland, and Silverton have already passed ordinances prohibiting polystyrene foam foodware in Oregon. Now it's time for a statewide solution.

Please help reduce plastic pollution and vote YES on Senate Bill 543.

(Above photos of polystyrene pollution on Oregon beaches courtesy of Oregon Chapters of Surfrider Foundation)