

* Note: I was registered to testify remotely on 2/14/2023 but did not get a chance to speak. Submitting this written copy in lieu.

2/14/2023

My name is Jane Comeault, I am a community member here in support of all three bills (SB 543, SB 544 and SB 545) and going to speak specifically about SB 543.

Polystyrene is among the most egregious materials in our waste stream. Starting upstream, the polystyrene manufacturing process is an enormous source of hazardous waste. It is made up of two main ingredients - styrene and benzene - which are derived from fossil fuels and have known adverse human health impacts especially for workers exposed to the process.

At the user level, eating hot food and drinks off of a toxic substance is not good for our health.

And finally let's consider that an item that gets used for a matter of minutes ends up as trash that exists for centuries. A significant amount of polystyrene - especially single use foodware - ends up in the environment, damaging every ecosystem in which it litters.

Bad for people, bad for the climate, bad for the natural environment. Single use foodware, **especially** those made from polystyrene and other difficult to recycle or unrecycleable materials should be eliminated.

Thank you Senator Sollman, Senator Dembrow and Representative Dexter for Sponsoring this bill; I urge this Committee to advance SB 543 with your full support. Thank you.