



The League of Women Voters of Oregon, established in 1920, is a grassroots nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We envision informed Oregonians participating in a fully accessible, responsive, and transparent government to achieve the common good. LWVOR Legislative Action is based on advocacy positions formed through studies and member consensus. The League never supports or opposes any candidate or political party.

February 17, 2023

To: [Senator Janeen Sollman](#)
[Senate Energy and Environment Committee](#)

Re: [SB 544-1](#) - Banning of Polystyrene Foam Containers - **Support**

The League of Women Voters of Oregon (LWVOR) has strongly supported the “reduce, reuse, recycle” hierarchy since the 1991-1994 battle over reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

We strongly support SB 544-1 and encourage its adoption.

SB 544-1 requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to establish a program for source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging and achieve 25 percent source reductions compared to 2023 levels.

Although some of these containers are recyclable, we know that many of those will not be put into the recycle bin and that some that are not recyclable will be put into the bin. In addition, even if they are recycled, replacement will be needed. According to our “reduce, reuse, recycle” hierarchy, “reduce” is better than “recycle.” We therefore strongly support the bill’s elimination of the use of all these products.

We were unsure in the original bill how the DEQ would determine whether the producers were in compliance, leaving it up to the producers to self-report. Therefore, we were glad to see the -1 Amendment which specifies that the producer responsibility organizations already set up by the recycling modernization program will serve as the intermediary between the producers and the DEQ.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and recommend that you support SB 544-1.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Becky Gladstone".

Rebecca Gladstone
President LWVOR

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Moyd".

Kathy Moyd
Natural Resources Portfolio