

Submitter: N Engelhard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure: SB543

Dear House Committee on Climate Energy and Environment and Other Involved Legislators,

I am writing in support of SB 543 as a concerned Oregonian, a member of Beyond Plastics Deschutes County Chapter and a former owner of a pharmaceutical testing lab of extractables and leachables. I urge you follow the data, facts and science surrounding the use of polystyrene. This is most definitely (rather than "probable") a toxic substance that leaches into foods especially when heated and especially when mixed with organic fats (Think French fries, soups, macaroni & cheese, etc...). It is also a substance that does not biodegrade within any environment and is finding its way into the water ways, landfills (already at capacity), food streams, wildlife and human beings. Not only would I support banning the use of polystyrene, but I would also encourage banning the "unfavorable replacements" that are also non-biodegradable, made of plastics or that use plastic lining containing hazardous "forever chemicals." There are enormous amounts of readily available science and data that do not support its use. I urge you to review some of the data in these testimonies and for you to do your fact checking and due diligence. This should also be recognized as an OVER SUPPLY marketing issue for those who stand to gain, rather than a demand issue. We need to turn off the polystyrene supply faucet to allow for accessible, simple and biodegradable options that readily exist. The single use, non recyclable, non biodegradable mentality has to change for our planet and for our own health. This is a good place to start. Please support SB 543. Thank you for your work and allowing me to testify.