

Submitter: Mael Perle  
On Behalf Of: The future of all living things  
Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment  
Measure: SB543

I am submitting this testimony today because I want a safe and habitable planet for my generation and the generations after. This bill will help achieve that. Polystyrene containers are a major contributor to the pollution and climate crises, with the average one taking over 500 years to decompose. Add that to the fact that Americans throw away well over 25 billion styrofoam cups each year, and you have a big problem. These containers can severely affect important native wildlife because of their physical longevity and light weight, which makes it easy to get blown into native habitats. If ingested, even a small amount of styrofoam can cause organ failure for an animal, and once it is in their intestines, it continuously releases harmful toxins into the digestive system. I know that these containers are convenient for food vendors to use, but many eco-friendly solutions can easily be phased into use in place of styrofoam. I urge all Oregon legislators to vote in support of this bill so that we can have a safe, clean future.

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