



Englander & Associates

April 22, 2008

Mayor Bob Foster
Members of the Long Beach City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mayor and Members of the Council:

On Behalf of the California Restaurant Association, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed ordinance that would ban expandable polystyrene food service packaging citywide that will be discussed at city council on April 22.

The California Restaurant Association and their 24,000 members statewide support environmental programs that protect the waterways and sea life from harm, but we feel that this ban will not solve the problem and only substitute one form of litter for another. The litter problem is a social issue that must be dealt with by changing individual's behavior/habits and banning certain kinds of food packaging will not stop litter from finding its way into the storm drains or onto the beaches.

The California Restaurant Association would like to work with the City of Long Beach to create a Green Business program, educate restaurants about all food packaging and what is available, work on a educating the public about litter and the effects that litter has on our environment-posters could be placed in restaurants.

There is a concern about alternative food packaging and the effects that some alternatives have on the environment. Biodegradable food packaging does not biodegrade in the ocean according to Marcus Eriksen of Algalita. This is a concern since many restaurants are switching to biodegradable food packaging. Compostable food packaging is another kind of food packaging that restaurants have been using, but we have learned that the City of Long Beach does not have a program to collect compostable f

The California Restaurant Association supports the City of Long Beaches goals to reduce litter and keep the beaches and rivers clear of litter. We ask that you give staff direction to work with the business community to partner on recycling and litter reduction, as well as identify food packaging that are cost-effective and safe for the environment.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew Casana
Partner
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