



COUNCILWOMAN LENA GONZALEZ

Polystyrene Ban Fact Sheet File Item 17-0948 – Agenda Item 16

SUMMARY:

The City of Long Beach has been exploring the possibility of banning different forms of polystyrene from the food service industry. Expanded Polystyrene or “Styrofoam”, as it is more widely known, is a type of plastic manufactured from non-renewable fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals. It is made up of 95 percent air and is most commonly used as take out containers in the food service industry. Currently, the Environmental Services Bureau has recommended the adoption of a 15-month phased in approach banning “expanded polystyrene foam, rigid polystyrene #6, and non-recyclable and non-compostable material for prepared food distribution”

PROBLEM:

According to the California Coastal Commission, polystyrene is the 2nd largest source of litter and pollution in all California beaches and has less than a 2% national recycling rate according to a 2013 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report. Polystyrene takes over 500 years to begin decomposing, and in the interim breaks down into small beads making it nearly impossible to clean up. Additionally, marine life is equally at risk as smaller fish cannot distinguish the micro particles between food and EPS, thus contaminating the food chain.

BUSINESS IMPACT:

There is no substantial impact to the daily operations of small or large businesses related to implementation of a polystyrene ban. The recommended ordinance presented by Environmental Services creates a 15-month phased approach that does not start until the formal ordinance has been adopted. Additionally, the City of Long Beach does not dictate the alternatives to be used, providing the ultimate flexibility for local businesses to use products that match their existing business model. During all phases of implementation, the City of Long Beach actively involved ensuring businesses have outlets for support and information. This will include hosting educational workshops, creating a hotline for questions and executing an economic hardship waiver for businesses that need additional support beyond the initial coordination. The cost to convert to non-polystyrene is cost neutral according to a May 2017 Cost Comparison by Clean Water Action. In fact, when a cooperative purchasing agreement with other businesses is established, there is a potential 25% reduction in costs.

STAFF CONTACT: Cory Allen, 562-570-6919 cory.allen@longbeach.gov

Polystyrene Foam Take-Out Packaging and Price Comparable Alternatives
Originally by Clean Water Action, Updated by CAW May 2017

	Polystyrene Product		Unit Cost	Non-Foam Product		Unit Cost	Cost Difference
10 oz Cup							
Cold Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$25.51	\$0.03	Plastic – Dart 2500 ct	\$64.63	\$0.03	\$0.00
Hot Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$25.51	\$0.03	Paper - Choice 1000 ct	\$28.06	\$0.03	\$0.00
12 oz Cup							
Cold Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$27.90	\$0.03	Plastic - Choice 1000 ct	\$21.05	\$0.02	(\$0.01)
Hot Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$27.90	\$0.03	Paper - Choice 1000 ct	\$31.68	\$0.03	\$0.00
16 oz cup							
Cold Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$40.28	\$0.04	Plastic - Choice 1000 ct	\$45.75	\$0.05	\$0.01
Hot Cup	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$40.28	\$0.04	Paper - Choice 1000 ct	\$37.51	\$0.04	\$0.00
12 oz Bowl							
	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$22.68	\$0.05	Plastic - Genpak 1000ct	\$47.70	\$0.05	\$0.00
16 oz Bowl							
	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$27.96	\$0.06	Plastic - Genpak 1000ct	\$96.65	\$0.09	\$0.03
6" Plate							
	Foam - Dart Container 1000 ct	\$15.59	\$0.02	Paper - AJM Packaging 1000 ct	\$7.59	\$0.01	(\$0.01)
9" Plate							
	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$22.42	\$0.04	Paper - AJM Packaging 1000 ct	\$13.99	\$0.01	(\$0.03)
6" Hinge Container							
	Foam - Dart Container 500 ct	\$21.68	\$0.04	Plastic - Dart 500ct	\$34.18	\$0.07	\$0.03
9" Hinge Container							
	Foam - Dart Container 200 ct	\$15.66	\$0.08	Plastic – Duralock 250ct	\$30.51	\$0.12	\$0.04

All prices from The WEBstaurant Store www.webstaurantstore.com

AVERAGE DIFFERENCE IS LESS THAN 1 PENNY!

*Lower prices (up to %25 less) may be found by purchasing through cooperative purchasing

<http://greentownlosaltos.org/programs/business-co-op/>



GENERATION
GREEN
INITIATIVE
#GENGREENLB | #LENAGONZALEZLB

October 17, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

I am writing you today as a business owner and resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

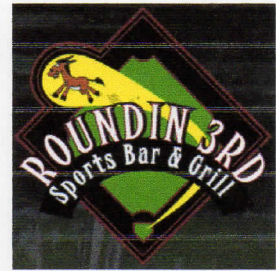
As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, we would like to reiterate our strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Signature	Business Name	Address
	PORTFOLIO COFFEEHOUSE	2300 E 4th St.
	BERLIN BISTRO	420 E 4th St.

Roundin 3rd Sports Bar & Grill
4133 E Anaheim St.
Long Beach, CA 90804
(562) 498-9900



October 6, 2017

Subject: Long Beach Ban on Disposable Polystyrene Food Containers

Dear Long Beach Mayor and City Council,

I own and operate a Long Beach restaurant and I support a city-wide ban on disposable polystyrene food containers. The restaurant stopped using expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam) food containers in May of this year, opting to go with a more environmentally friendly cardboard container. I made the change to help the environment and reduce the amount of plastic trash that ends up on our beaches and oceans. After the change, I noticed that our customers appreciate the environmentally friendly containers.

The change to cardboard containers was no big deal. I just asked our supplier what they had, and picked a better one. With the new containers, my take-out food container costs went up 20%, about \$360 per year. I take all our costs very seriously, but think this particular cost is worth it.

We must all do our part to protect our beaches and oceans. I look forward to all the restaurants in Long Beach changing over to a more environmentally friendly product soon.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Rau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "R".

Geoff Rau

Owner

Viento Y Agua Coffee House
4007 E 4th St, Long Beach, CA 90814

October 16, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

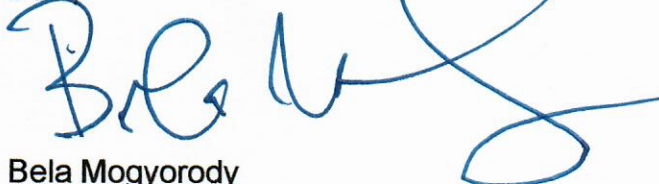
I am writing you today as the business owner of Viento Y Agua Coffee House and resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I support the reasonable timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,



Bela Mogyorody

Owner

October 13, 2017

Mayor Robert Garcia
City of Long Beach
333 West Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Support for a City of Long Beach Polystyrene Ordinance

Dear Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council:

As global leaders in the fight against plastic pollution, Algalita urges support for the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach.

As you may recall, our organization was the first to expose the severity of the issue after our Founder, Captain Charles Moore, discovered the swirling soup of plastic pollution in the North Pacific - now known by many as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. With over 20 years of experience working to understand and solve the problem, Algalita is a living example of a catalyst for real change, and we're right here in Long Beach!

I'd like to remind you of the results from a nine-month study our organization conducted in Long Beach and surrounding areas with Master's students from the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. The overarching purpose of our investigation was to identify the type, source, and fate of plastic debris in our region. The information was then synthesized into action items, ranked by their feasibility and effectiveness.

After nine months of digging into the problem here at home, our researchers determined that **phasing out expanded polystyrene was the second most important action item to implement immediately.**

Through our investigation we found that -

- expanded polystyrene makes up roughly 26% of the litter on our streets.
- the material has low market value, especially when contaminated, so it's not recovered as frequently as other plastics like PET or HDPE.
- since EPS breaks down easily - it has a higher chance of making its way into the ocean.
- EPS is also lightweight, making it transportable by wind and water.

Since this study, our team has continued monitoring plastic debris accumulating in the East San Pedro Bay. Over the past two years, we've worked with six local high schools to collect plastic pollution samples from the water, seafloor, and shoreline of the Peninsula. Sample after sample, expanded polystyrene was identified as the most common type of microplastic. In December 2015, we found approximately four million pieces of expanded polystyrene on the high tide line ALONE; and that was only from the two mile stretch of beach from the pier to the end of the Peninsula. At the south end of the Peninsula, we found 2,100 pieces of EPS in only 10 liter of sand. We are literally changing the composition of our ocean, and our beaches. These microplastics soak up toxicants and are entering our local food chain. They become bite-sized morsels for the fish, turtles, and other animals living in our local ecosystem. And beyond that, individuals in our community feed their families fish collected from this highly polluted area.

The issue is so horrendous here at home, our organization invites stakeholders from around the world to visit Long Beach to experience the microplastic crisis up close and personal. Just last December we had 35 plastic industry leaders and CEOs from companies like Coke-Cola, Nestle, and Proctor & Gamble sifting through the sand on the Peninsula. Long Beach is quickly becoming known as "the beach" to see microplastics. Approving this ordinance will show the world that Long Beach cares about its water, and we're working to determine the most effective ways to protect our community.

Very sincerely,

Katie Allen
Executive Director, Algalita
katie@algalita.org



RUBBER BAND ARRANGEMENTS

October 12, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Steve Hommel and I am the owner of *Rubber Band Arrangements*. *Rubber Band Arrangements* is a Long Beach based publishing company that creates and markets innovative curriculums for school bands and orchestras worldwide. I am writing you today as a business owner and resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Steve Hommel

Steve Hommel Author/Composer
Rubber Band Arrangements
Learn in Unison. Perform in Counterpoint.

4100 E. 6th St.
Long Beach, CA 90814
Tel. 562 856 9585
FAX 562 856 7393
Email: steve@rubberbandarrangements.com
Website: www.rubberbandarrangements.com



5 GYRES
INSTITUTE



October 17, 2017

Mayor Robert Garcia
City Councilmembers
City of Long Beach
333 W. Ocean Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90802



Via Email To: Mayor Robert Garcia, Vice Mayor Rex Richardson, Councilmembers Lena Gonzalez, Jeannine Pearce, Suzie Price, Daryl Supernaw, Stacy Mungo, Dee Andrews, Roberto Uranga, Al Austin II

Re: Support for a City of Long Beach Polystyrene Ordinance (Item 16 on October 17, 2017 Agenda)

Dear Honorable Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council:

The undersigned organizations support and encourage the Long Beach City Council to move forward with developing and adopting an ordinance to prohibit the use of single-use food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene foam, rigid polystyrene #6, and non-recyclable and non-compostable materials. We strongly support the City of Long Beach's effort to prohibit the use and distribution of disposable single-use polystyrene food service ware which will help protect our neighborhoods, parks, and coastal resources from polystyrene litter pollution.

Like other single-use plastics, polystyrene is a primary contributor to plastic pollution in our ocean and waterways, in our parks, throughout our neighborhoods, and on our beaches. Polystyrene is a non-sustainable, non-renewable, petroleum-based plastic product used for many single-use disposable food and beverage service ware items. It is difficult and costly to recycle, frequently littered, and never biodegrades. Lightweight polystyrene containers can blow out of trash cans and garbage trucks, and otherwise make their way to storm drains, waterways, the ocean, our beaches, and as litter in our neighborhoods. Polystyrene foam is a notorious pollutant that breaks down into small, non-biodegradable pieces that are often mistaken for fish eggs by seabirds and other marine life. A January 2016 report published by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, World Economic Forum, and McKinsey & Company reports that by the year 2050 there will be more plastic in the world's ocean than fish, by weight. Most of these plastics come from packaging, including food and beverage ware, and much of these plastics are made from polystyrene.

The U.S. EPA has stated that the physical properties of polystyrene are such that "the material can have serious impacts on human health, wildlife, the aquatic environment, and the economy." Polystyrene is a petroleum-based plastic made from styrene (vinyl benzene) monomers. Styrene is a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and is included as a listed chemical under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in its National Toxicology Program

14th Report on Carcinogens, lists styrene as *reasonably anticipated to cause cancer in humans*, and may disproportionately affect the health of workers in plants that manufacture polystyrene products.

Alternative proposals such as recycling programs for polystyrene are not economically feasible nor effective since these programs do nothing to address the significant amounts of litter that never make it to recycling facilities, a problem prevalent with polystyrene food service ware. Recycling is even more infeasible since recyclers typically accept only clean polystyrene food service ware, not items soiled with food residue. Education and outreach efforts are applauded but lack the impact of public policy, such as the proposed Long Beach polystyrene food service ware ordinance.

We urge the City of Long Beach to move forward with developing and adopting a contemporary polystyrene ordinance and join the 110 municipalities across California in banning this harmful marine, coastal, and environmental resource pollutant. Furthermore, we encourage the City of Long Beach to consider stepping to the forefront by joining San Francisco, Malibu, Manhattan Beach and others, in adopting a more comprehensive polystyrene ordinance that not only prohibits the use of polystyrene food service ware, but also prohibits the sale and distribution of non-encapsulated polystyrene foam coolers, and prohibits retail sales of all single-use disposable polystyrene food service ware.

Finally, we strongly encourage the City of Long Beach to include in this ordinance an "upon request" provision requiring that businesses provide single-use disposable straws and single-use disposable utensils only upon request by the consumer, which not only saves these businesses money, but also helps eliminate often unwanted disposable food service ware items from filling landfills or littering our environment.

We support the Long Beach City Council action to instruct Staff to develop and return to Council a contemporary and comprehensive polystyrene food service ware ordinance that establishes the City of Long Beach as an environmental leader. Such an ordinance will support and facilitate the switch to safer and more sustainable food service ware choices, and is in line with the City's sustainability objectives. This ordinance will enable Long Beach businesses, residents, and visitors to realize a higher quality of life through the enjoyment of a clean and healthy environment and stronger local economy, and at the same time help to protect our neighborhoods, parks, ocean, waves and beaches.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Bill Hickman, Southern California Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Dianna Cohen, CEO and Co-Founder
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Sarah Sikich, Vice President
Heal the Bay

Katie Allen, Executive Director
Algalita Marine Research and Education

Rachel Lincoln Sarnoff, Executive Director
5 Gyres Institute

Jackie Nuñez, Founder
The Last Plastic Straw

Bruce Reznik, Executive Director
Los Angeles Waterkeeper

Craig W. Cadwallader, Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter

Nick Lapis, Director of Advocacy
Californians Against Waste

Amy Rosenstein, President
Ballona Creek Renaissance

Robert Nothoff, Director
Don't Waste Long Beach

Andy Johnson, Founder
Redondo Beach Cleanup Team

Benjamin Kay, Science Instructor & Team Marine Coach
Santa Monica High School & Santa Monica College



October 13, 2017

Long Beach Mayor and City Council
Civic Center Plaza
333 W. Ocean Blvd. 14th floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Support for a City of Long Beach Polystyrene Ordinance (Agenda Item 16 for October 17, 2017)

Dear Long Beach Mayor and City Council Members:

The Long Beach Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation strongly supports a city-wide ordinance to ban the sale and distribution of disposable polystyrene food containers. By polystyrene we include both expanded polystyrene (EPS), extruded polystyrene, and rigid polystyrene as all have similar detrimental impacts and similar easy alternatives. As the Surfrider Foundation and the City of Long Beach have been working on this issue for a very long time, we support immediate implementation of the ban.

The negative impacts from polystyrene are numerous and well documented. This type of plastic, while only comprising a small portion of the total trash stream is particularly harmful as it floats, is easily moved by the wind, stays on beach surfaces, resists machine raking, breaks into small pieces, doesn't degrade, is ingested by aquatic species, and is a potential carcinogen. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in its National Toxicology Program 14th Report on Carcinogens, lists styrene as reasonably anticipated to cause cancer in humans. Styrene is suspected to leach into our food and beverages from polystyrene containers, and may negatively impact human health. Replacement products are numerous, less harmful to beaches, oceans, and humans and costs range from a few cents less to a few cents more per item¹.

¹ Polystyrene Foam Take-Out Packaging and Price Comparable Alternatives, Californians Against Waste (CAW), May 2017

Our chapter has been actively educating the public, city staff, and elected officials on this topic since the chapter began in 1999. Our interest in the topic has been constantly reinforced during our frequent beach cleanups. We've hosted over 300 beach cleanups in Long Beach, more than any other group in the city. Anyone who's been to a beach cleanup in Long Beach has seen our Surfrider tent and has seen EPS particles on the beach. EPS trash has always been a significant portion of beach litter. We've been making post cards



available to the public to sign and send to Long Beach City councilmembers since 2006. At beach cleanups and other table events, members of the public have signed and mailed thousands of these post cards to past and present mayors and councilmembers.

In 2012 our chapter began recognizing local restaurants that chose to not use EPS take-out food containers, calling these establishments Ocean Friendly Restaurants. This program was developed to appreciate these restaurants and educate the public about



**OCEAN FRIENDLY
RESTAURANTS**

alternatives to polystyrene. The program has since gone nationwide within the Surfrider Foundation. There are currently 37 Ocean Friendly Restaurants listed on our Long Beach chapter webpage². Each restaurant is given an award, and a window sticker to let customers know that they're doing their part for our beaches and oceans. In discussing their choice to forego EPS, the majority of these restaurants stated that they're doing it for the environment and the cost is small in comparison to the benefits.

Opponents of a polystyrene ban have stated that recycling is the answer. This argument is a distraction and has no impact on the polystyrene litter problem. If all disposable polystyrene food containers that are currently placed in the trash were instead placed into recycling bins, there would be zero change in the quantity of polystyrene making its way onto our beaches and oceans. Simply put, litterbugs will litter regardless of whether the receptacle is a trash bin or recycling bin, and once it's littered, polystyrene blows and drifts to the beaches and oceans.

² <http://www.lbsurfrider.org/programs/rise-above-plastics/long-beach-surfrider-foundations-beach-friendly-restaurants/>

A simple add-on to the polystyrene ban that helps to reduce plastic litter is an “upon request” provision. This provision requires that businesses provide disposable straws and utensils only upon request by the consumer. This saves these businesses money, and helps eliminate often unwanted disposable food service ware items from filling landfills and littering our environment. As a point of clarification, this provision would apply to all single-use, disposable, straws and utensils, not just polystyrene items. Our chapter fully supports the upon request provision.

It’s time for Long Beach to implement a polystyrene ban and do it quickly. The City of Long Beach has been looking into the negative impacts of polystyrene food containers and possible solutions since 2008, over nine (9) years. Over 110 other communities in California have implemented some type of polystyrene ban and their experiences are available and documented for our benefit³. Given the extensive research, outreach, and numerous examples available of similar polystyrene bans, there is no excuse for our city to delay further. In addition, we recommend an expedited implementation schedule, with all applicable businesses on board within six months of the ordinance becoming law.

While we know this polystyrene ban will not solve all the plastic or trash problems in our oceans or even Long Beach, it is one small step that we can do as a responsible community. Once Long Beach does its part, the Long Beach Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation can begin working with nearby cities that also contribute polystyrene litter to our beaches and oceans. We look forward to working our way upstream, to extend this polystyrene ban to Signal Hill, Paramount, Lakewood, Bellflower, and eventually the entire State of California.

I’ve enjoyed personally meeting with the mayor and all council district offices on this topic and will continue to be available to work with you all on this most important issue. Please feel free to call me any time to discuss the polystyrene ban or any other beach issue in our great city.

Sincerely,



Seamus Ian Innes, P.E., M.Sc.
Coastal Engineer
Surfrider Foundation, Long Beach Chapter

³ Californians Against Waste, Polystyrene Local Ordinance. <http://www.cawrecycles.org/polystyrene-local-ordinances>

Dear Councilwoman Gonzalez:

As members of the Wrigley Clean Team we support the proposed ban on polystyrene food containers throughout the city of Long Beach and urge the Council to vote in favor of the ban.

As volunteers we see firsthand the trash that accumulates along the business corridors which flows to the sewers, LA river, and eventually to the ocean. We do our best to clean up what we can, but we know that our efforts are bandaid on a much larger health and environmental problem.

The negative effects of continued use are clear: As a substance that does not degrade, polystyrene simply breaks into smaller particles which gets ingested by sea birds and ocean wildlife, which in turn ends up polluting our food chain. The longterm affects of polystyrene are coming to light: its suspected to leach into our food and beverages and is a potential carcinogen. It makes sense to impose this ban when safer alternative products exist that are not harmful and more environmentally friendly.

Long Beach businesses, restaurants and food establishments can adapt in relatively short time; extra costs would be minimal; and the public would be in favor of absorbing those costs if it meant a long term healthier alternative.

We agree with the recommendations put forth by the Office of Sustainability especially their very first bullet related to straws (another plastic that does not degrade), which the Wrigley Clean Team constantly cleans from the streets and bushes on a weekly basis. And we hope that they can be added into the ban as well.

We know that this ban will be a positive impact to eliminate unsightly trash from the City and beaches.

Thank you,

Mauna Eichner and Lee Fukui

6th district

Wrigley Clean Team

Wrigley is Going Green!

October 15, 2017

Long Beach Mayor and City Council

333 W. Ocean Blvd. 14th floor

Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Sierra Club asks for your yes vote on City staff's Polystyrene Ordinance- Agenda Item 16

Dear Long Beach Mayor and City Council Members:

The Long Beach Area Group of Sierra Club strongly supports a city-wide ordinance to ban the sale and distribution of single-use polystyrene food containers. Your City staff has done a great job looking at the ordinances the other 111 jurisdictions in California use. This is not uncharted territory.

The negative impacts from polystyrene are numerous and well documented. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in its National Toxicology Program 14th Report on Carcinogens, lists styrene as reasonably anticipated to cause cancer in humans.

Recyclable and compostable products are available at every grocery store, Costco, Smart & Final and commercial restaurant supply. A tremendous number of our local businesses already use them exclusively.

In 2012 we began collaborating with Seamus and Surfrider to recognize local restaurants that replaced EPS take-out food containers, calling these establishments Ocean Friendly Restaurants. This program was developed to appreciate these restaurants and educate the public about alternatives to polystyrene. The program has since gone nationwide within the Surfrider Foundation.

Opponents of a polystyrene ban have stated that recycling is the answer. This argument is a distraction and has no impact on the polystyrene litter problem. If all disposable polystyrene food containers that are currently placed in the trash were instead placed into recycling bins, there would be zero change in the quantity of polystyrene making its way onto our beaches and oceans. Simply put, litterbugs will litter regardless of whether the receptacle is a trash bin or recycling bin, and once it's littered, polystyrene blows and drifts to the beaches and oceans.

Our members ask that you:

- Include straws in the ban. This could be as simple as creating a restaurant policy to only provide straws when requested. This policy would add no additional costs to businesses, and would actually save them money while reducing waste and pollution.
- Focus on characteristics of materials rather than one type of material. Creating a ban that covers all materials not recyclable or biodegradable would ensure EPS is not replaced by another environmentally problematic material, and support a market for the most sustainable materials.
- Concentrate effort to reach immigrant-owned and small businesses, particularly in non-English-speaking communities. It is an issue of social justice to ensure these communities receive the support they need during the policy transition.
- Include LBUSD in the ban. The City of Long Beach should include LBUSD in this legislation. The business community will be more likely to accept the new policy if it applies equally to the whole city.

Given the extensive research, outreach, and numerous examples available of similar polystyrene bans, there is no excuse for our city to delay further.

While we know this polystyrene ban will not solve all the plastic or trash problems in our streets and oceans, it is one small step that we can do as a responsible community. Once Long Beach does its part, the Long Beach NGOs can begin working with nearby cities that also contribute polystyrene litter to our river and beaches.

Kathleen Irvine made a great point in her letter- Remember how difficult it was convincing people about the plastic bag ban? And now? No one even thinks twice about it, and I am sure we have all noticed the incredible decrease in that ubiquitous piece of trash in our yards and public spaces. I know that an EPS ban can go the same way.

Environmental protection and business can work together on this, just as we did single-use grocery bags, conserving our natural resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Weeks

Chair, Long Beach Area Group of Sierra Club

www.sierraclub.org/angeles/long-beach



10/16/17

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Sokha Ny and I serve as the Co-founder for Long Beach Environmental Alliance. I am writing you today as an owner/on behalf of organization and resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

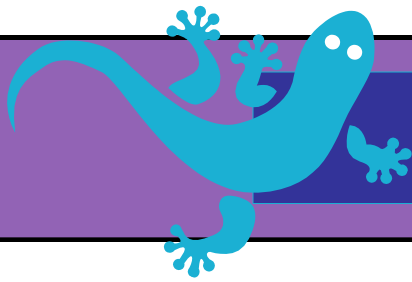
Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Sokha Ny

Long Beach Environmental Alliance

1930 E. Washington St LB CA 90805



BLUE GECKO DESIGN

539 DAISY AVE.

LONG BEACH, CA

90802

BLUEGECKO3@CHARTER.NET

WWW.BLUEGECKOLANDSCAPE.COM

HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BLUE-GECKO-DESIGN-228349487327724/?REF=BOOKMARKS

October 15, 2017

RE: EPS Ban

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

I applaud the City Council, and Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez in particular, for looking at a ban on single-use food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene, rigid polystyrene (#6) and non-recyclable and non-compostable material prepared for food distribution. As a Long Beach Sustainability Recognized Green Business, I believe that this is one more important step towards a stronger green economy.

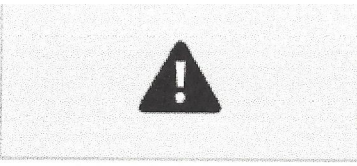
There are already numerous small business owners who have made the commitment to using recyclable or compostable containers, despite a relatively small increase in cost. I believe that instituting this ban would not cause undue hardship on the business community, and would like to see it expanded to LBUSD as well. If our children are not learning how to protect the environment in such a daily, impactful way as the containers their food comes in, then we are seriously falling down in our responsibilities as adults.

I strongly urge the Council to vote yes on this ban. Remember how difficult it was convincing people about the plastic bag ban? And now? No one even thinks twice about it, and I am sure we have all noticed the incredible decrease in that ubiquitous piece of trash in our yards and public spaces. I know that an EPS ban can go the same way.

Thank you for all you and your staffs do.

Best Regards,

Kathleen Irvine, Owner/Designer



We Support a Foam-Free LB!

Dear Long Beach City Council,

We believe that a ban on polystyrene foam food service products in Long Beach would go a long way in reducing the litter caused by these take-out food containers in our community and waterways. Our restaurant is already using alternatives to foam containers that work well.

As a small business in Long Beach we realize that there is a higher cost associated by NOT using polystyrene containers.

Portfolio Coffeehouse and Berlin Bistro have both made a commitment to NOT use Polystyrene for over 10 years now. We have seen a positive reaction in most of our customers and we have even seen a request for compostable containers over the years. We have complied with this request from our guests as well and have seen only positive feedback from our customers. We are here to serve our community and here to serve our environment as we all live here.

Studies by several California municipalities and the Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) find that polystyrene comprises 15% of street and storm drain litter. This type of litter breaks apart into small pieces that are blown around easily by wind- it is therefore the most difficult type of litter to clean up. Litter – especially foam litter -- is also bad for business as it is an eyesore and easily blows off sidewalks, streets, or out of garbage cans. That is why many restaurants and food establishments in our community choose not to use polystyrene foam containers. The transition away from foam was accomplished by several restaurants without much difficulty or additional expense, as evidenced by Surfrider Long Beach's Ocean Friendly Restaurant Program. And many businesses report that their customers were pleased by the switch away from foam containers.

If a city-wide ban were implemented, it would create a level playing field for restaurants. We would not be competing with food establishments that do not provide alternatives to polystyrene food service containers.

Restaurants like ours are concerned with both the environmental and economic impacts of foam food ware. We want to prevent litter and reduce taxpayer spending to control it. We also want to protect the health of our customers by avoiding exposure to Styrene -- a possible human carcinogen and a known lab animal carcinogen – from foam containers.

We support the City's efforts to ban foam food service materials, and feel that this measure is good for the environment and good for business. We are proud to be at the forefront of this beneficial change and thank you for sponsoring this proposal to stop foam plastic pollution in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Kerstin Kansteiner

Owner Portfolio Coffeehouse and Berlin Bistro



Green Education, Inc.

10-10-17

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Stella Ursua and I serve as the President for Green Education Inc. I am writing you today as a business owner and resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

Green Education Inc. fully supports the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we can no longer allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, Green Education Inc. would like to reiterate our strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Sincerely,

Stella Ursua
President - Green Education Inc.
3515 Linden Ave Long Beach CA.90807
562.413.1749

October 13, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Albert Luu and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Albert Luu

10732 La Batista Ave, Fountain Valley, CA, 92708, USA

714-964-9756

October 13, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Andy Meechukant and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Andy Meechukant

562-213-6589

10/16/17

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Christina DeCorse and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Christina DeCorse

Geography Graduate Student and Teaching Assistant

CSU Long Beach

15 October 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Dalia Gonzalez and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Dalia Gonzalez

5832 Rose Ave. Long Beach, CA 90805

Cell:(562)619-9458

October 16, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Devin Lurie and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Devin Lurie

October 16, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Gabriela Alcala and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as "Styrofoam", is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Gabriela Alcala

714-812-8727

October 14, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is India Rockett and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

India Rockett

(310)-927-0302

10/13/17

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is India Smith and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

India Smith

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Jaime Henriquez and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Jaime Henriquez

(707) 342-7624

October 12th, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Jessica Elderkin and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

We fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, we would like to reiterate our strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Jessica Elderkin

Student at California State University, Long Beach

jjelderkin@hotmail.com

October 11, 2017

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council,

My name is Leanna Noble. I am writing you as an active downtown resident, loft owner in the Walker Building, voter and tax payer who is proud to call Long Beach home.

I urge you to actively support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our sidewalks, alleys, streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, EPS, better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the CA Coastal Commission and takes more than 500 years before it starts to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city any longer. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. Both statements are NOT true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide – in 2013 the USA EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. As more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to 2 cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment – a top issue for myself and my downtown neighbors! Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Sincerely,

Leanna Noble

115 West 4th Street, Unit 401

Long Beach, CA 90802

323-482-6044

10-16-2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Nolan Havig, and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I/We fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013, the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I/we would like to reiterate my/our strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Nolan Havig

4835 Pacific Coast Highway

760-793-9004

October 16, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Rosella Pu and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

Rosella Pu

(562) 637- 5816

October 13, 2017

Dear Mayor & Members of the City Council,

My name is Samantha Flores and I am writing to you as a resident of the City of Long Beach. I urge you to support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, Expanded Polystyrene (EPS), better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the California Coastal Commission and takes over 500 years before it begins to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city anymore. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. However, both statements are not true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide, in 2013 the United States EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. Additionally, as more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to two cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I would like to reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment. Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Flores', with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Samantha Flores

562-479-4728

October 11, 2017

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of the Long Beach City Council,

My name is Leanna Noble. I am writing you as an active downtown resident, loft owner in the Walker Building, voter and tax payer who is proud to call Long Beach home.

I urge you to actively support the upcoming ordinance to ban expanded polystyrene (EPS) from the food service industry in Long Beach. This ban will remove one of the largest sources of litter from our sidewalks, alleys, streets and waterways.

I fully support the timeline laid out by Environmental Services to ensure that food service businesses of all sizes have the appropriate amount of time to comply with the new ordinance. As you know, EPS, better known as “Styrofoam”, is the second largest source of litter on our beaches according to the CA Coastal Commission and takes more than 500 years before it starts to decompose.

As an environmentally responsible coastal city, we cannot allow this dangerous source of litter to pollute our city any longer. Those opposed to the ban often cite both the recyclability of EPS and the extreme cost to convert to non-EPS products. Both statements are **NOT** true. EPS is one of the least recycled products nationwide – in 2013 the USA EPA reported that less than 2% of all EPS products were successfully recycled. As more cities adopt EPS bans, the cost for alternative products have plummeted, now averaging anywhere from cost neutral to 2 cents cheaper for non-EPS products. This cost can be reduced by upwards of 25% more when businesses use a cooperative purchasing agreement.

Once again, I reiterate my strong support for the proposed EPS ban. It is a critical next step in protecting our environment – a top issue for myself and my downtown neighbors! Please vote to support the ban when it comes before the Long Beach City Council.

Sincerely,

Leanna Noble

115 West 4th Street, Unit 401

Long Beach, CA 90802

323-482-6044