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California State Senate

SENATOR
BEN ALLEN

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



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November 2, 2017

The Honorable Mayor Lori Liu
50 Park Place
Brisbane, CA 94005

RE: Join Our Campaign to Phase Out Polystyrene Food Take-Out Containers

Dear Mayor Liu,

Please consider joining our campaign to reduce sources of plastic pollution by phasing out polystyrene take-out packaging.

As you know, plastic pollution is a blight on our communities and is devastating our oceans and marine wildlife. A recent report projects that there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans by 2050. Single use plastics are a primary culprit – products and packaging whose useful life is often measured in minutes, but which remain an often deadly pollutant in our environment for decades.

Expanded polystyrene (also known by its trade name “Styrofoam”) is a ubiquitous source of plastic pollution in our communities and our environment. With little track record of recycling success, expanded polystyrene is uniquely litter-prone, even after being properly disposed. Polystyrene never biodegrades, but breaks into smaller pieces that are often mistaken for food by wildlife, or that coagulate in a toxic soup in the ocean. Small bits of polystyrene are damaging and costly to local storm water systems and virtually impossible to clean up.

That’s why I authored Senate Bill 705 to phase out this packaging statewide. Local governments, environmental and community groups, and even many restaurants, brought broad support to the phase-out effort. But SB 705 fell short of passage on the Senate Floor in the face of a deceptive campaign by chemical and plastics industry interests. I remain committed to a statewide solution, but I need your help.

Plastic marine pollution is a global problem with local solutions. Local governments have shown that restricting plastic packaging can make a difference environmentally and politically. More than

100 other California cities and counties that have already adopted ordinances phasing out polystyrene. I am urging you to join this effort by taking two actions:

- 1) Adopt a resolution supporting SB 705; and
- 2) Commit to introducing an ordinance phasing out expanded polystyrene in your community.

While my colleagues and I will continue to push for a statewide phase-out, this will not happen without pressure from the local level. Let me know if I can count on your support in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Ben Allen
26th Senate District

Polystyrene Phase-Out & Sustainable Packaging Interest Form

City of Brisbane

Thank you for your City's interest in creating a safer, cleaner, and greener California. Please mark which of the following actions your City is interested in learning more about. Californians Against Waste will follow-up with the contact(s) listed below.

Mayor: Lori Liu

Name: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

City Representative:

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Statewide Actions

- ☐ Our City is in support of state legislation to phase-out the use of polystyrene foam in food take-out containers statewide, including SB 705 (Allen, 2017).
- ☐ Our City may be listed as an official supporter of such statewide legislation, including SB 705.

Local Actions

- ☐ We are interested in phasing-out the use of polystyrene foam in food take-out containers in our community.
 - ☐ Please follow-up with us with more information and local ordinance templates.
- ☐ We are interested in the exclusive use of sustainable food packaging in our community.
 - ☐ Please follow-up with us with more information about how to transition to an all-compostable and recyclable food packaging community.
- ☐ We are only interested in phasing-out polystyrene containers in my community if the statewide bill, SB 705, fails to become law in 2018.
 - ☐ Please send updates on the status of SB 705 to the email address(es) listed above.
- ☐ The City Representative listed above is interested in serving as, or identifying the appropriate, local media contact in our community on this issue.

If you prefer, a digital copy of this form is available at www.cawrecycles.org/sb705allen

Otherwise, please mail or fax a completed copy to Californians Against Waste at
921 11th Street, Suite 420 • Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 443-5422 • Fax: (916) 443-3912