

Communication from Public

Name: Shona Ganguly

Date Submitted: 11/08/2022 02:06 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is writing to express support for both the development and implementation of a prohibition of expanded polystyrene products (EPS) and today's request for amendments to the presented draft ordinance language. It is critical to combat plastic pollution to protect environmental and public health. With partners, TNC has advocated for EPS bans in the Los Angeles region and throughout the state of California. Legislation prohibiting this toxic material is an effective and efficient means of mitigating this problematic type of pollution. We recognize that the draft language as it stands requires improvements to ensure effective reduction in the sale, distribution, use, and eventual disposal of EPS products in City of Los Angeles and therefore support the request from the LA City Attorney's office for amending the implementation details of the ordinance, including a two-phase implementation schedule. We encourage the council to vote today in support of this request and we look forward to working with both the ECCEJR Committee and the LASAN team to improve the implementation details of this ordinance. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Parker on behalf of undersigned organizations
Date Submitted: 11/08/2022 07:24 PM
Council File No: 21-0064
Comments for Public Posting: please see attached document for comments



November 8, 2022

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Agenda Item 29 - ECCEJR Committee Report to prohibit the distribution and sale of expanded polystyrene products - SUPPORT

Submitted electronically via: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/?cfnumber=21-0064>

President Krekorian and Honorable Councilmembers:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express support for both the development and implementation of a prohibition of expanded polystyrene products (EPS) and today’s request for amendments to the presented draft ordinance language. Together, our organizations have decades of experience working to combat plastic pollution to protect environmental and public health and have jointly advocated for EPS bans here in the Los Angeles region and throughout the state of California. Legislation prohibiting this toxic material is an effective and efficient means of mitigating this problematic type of pollution.

We recognize that the draft language as it stands requires improvements to ensure effective reduction in the sale, distribution, use, and eventual disposal of EPS products in City of Los Angeles and therefore support the request from the LA City Attorney's office for amending the implementation details of the ordinance, including a two-phase implementation schedule. We encourage the council to vote today in support of this request and we look forward to working with both the ECCEJR Committee and the LASAN team to improve the implementation details of this ordinance.

Finally, we would be remiss not to recognize the current state our city is in as we reckon with the racist rhetoric that was leaked from former Council President Martinez and Councilmembers Cedillo and de León. While we deeply support the move to ban EPS by the LA City Council, we must also include our strong support for the resignation of Councilmembers Cedillo and de León.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Emily Parker
Coastal and Marine Scientist
Heal the Bay

Alison Waliszewski
Policy Director
5 Gyres Institute

David Diaz, MPH
Executive Director
Active San Gabriel Valley

Cheryl Auger
President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastic)

Joy Walters
Facilitator
CHA CHA
Clean Healthy Air - Clean Healthy Altadena

Newara Brosnan-Faltas
Los Angeles Chapter Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Craig W. Cadwallader
Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation South Bay Chapter

Chris Peck
President
Urban Ecology Project

Ingrid Steinberg
President
Resilient Palisades

Anita Ghazarian OD
Environmental Lead,
Indivisible Alta Pasadena

Julia Cohen
Co-Founder & Managing Director
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Alex Choy
Campaign Organizer
The Story of Stuff Project

Communication from Public

Name: California Public Interest Research Network

Date Submitted: 11/08/2022 07:52 PM

Council File No: 21-0064

Comments for Public Posting: November 8, 2022 Los Angeles City Council 200 N Spring St, Room 360 Los Angeles, CA 90012 RE: Agenda Item 29 - ECCEJR Committee Report to prohibit the distribution and sale of expanded polystyrene products - SUPPORT Dear Los Angeles City Council, We write to express our strong support for banning the use of polystyrene food ware and utensils in the city of Los Angeles. Globally, 33 billion pounds of plastic enter the marine environment every year, devastating the world's oceans. Plastic does not go away, instead it breaks into smaller pieces that can be mistaken for food by marine life. In California, microplastic has been found everywhere from Lake Tahoe to the marine sanctuary of Monterey Bay. As California's biggest and most influential city, it is imperative that Los Angeles takes strong action to eliminate plastic pollution, beginning with phasing out the worst forms. Polystyrene foam, commonly referred to as Styrofoam, is among the worst forms of plastic pollution. Like all plastics, it does not readily biodegrade but breaks up into small pieces that take centuries to degrade. Often, this pollution is swept into our waterways, ending up in our rivers, lakes and oceans. Plastic foam is frequently among the 10 most commonly picked up items at beach cleanups. In addition to the environmental impact, polystyrene also poses a risk to public health. Harmful chemicals from plastic packaging can enter the human body from food and beverages. This infiltration carries great risk: The World Health Organization recently upgraded its rating of styrene –the chemical building block for polystyrene– from “possibly carcinogenic” to “probably carcinogenic.” Disposable plastics also place a huge financial burden on our communities, who often bear the costs to clean up plastic waste. Polystyrene foam is not accepted in curbside recycling and is not easily recycled. So-called "chemical recycling" fails to recycle most plastic foam and is a false solution to our plastic problem that exacerbates the climate crisis, endangers communities, and distracts from real solutions like reducing plastic production and transitioning to reusable alternatives. Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our environment for hundreds of years. In the last few years, we've seen great progress on plastics legislation in California. Most single-use plastic grocery bags were banned statewide in 2014, which led to states and cities across the country

to follow. That action also spurred cities in California to ban other forms of single-use plastic: 129 cities in California have passed restrictions on polystyrene expanded food ware. This year, the state of California passed a law that requires all single-use food ware and packaging to be recyclable or compostable by 2032. We can meet this target faster if more cities follow the lead of those that have eliminated polystyrene food ware. By passing a ban on foam food ware, the city of L.A. sends a message to consumers, companies, and leaders across all 50 states that the best solution for reducing plastic waste is to turn off the tap and stop making harmful plastic items in the first place.