Memorandum of Support

Ban Styrofoam Packaging

SB 99- AAC THE USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS

BACKGROUND
Expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam, commonly referred to as “Styrofoam”, poses a significant risk to the environment. This material is not biodegradable, and after being used for food service, is not recyclable. Polystyrene packaging remains in the environment; littering open spaces, polluting waterways, and harming wildlife. Once in our environment, EPS foam doesn’t biodegrade but instead breaks into small pieces and eventually becomes microplastic pollution in our waterways.

EPS foam also poses a threat to human health. Styrene, a chemical in EPS foam, is listed by US Department of Health and Human Services’ National Toxicology Program as “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen.” It is known to leach from food packaging containers into food or drinks, especially when exposed to heat.

JUSTIFICATION
Connecticut towns and municipalities are facing a solid waste and recycling crisis, with some towns seeing municipal solid waste costs rising as much as 800%. Currently, no municipalities in Connecticut offer EPS recycling through the curbside recycling system. Implementing a ban on EPS food packaging not only protects the environment and human health, but it helps to ease the burden on municipalities struggling with skyrocketing solid waste costs. The State of Maine, NYC, and over 100 cities across the nation have already banned Styrofoam. There is no reason to continue using EPS containers when safer, more environmentally friendly alternatives exist.

Recommended changes
● Expand Section 1 to include EPS cups and other types of EPS food packaging containers;
● Expand Section 2 (b)(1) to include all food service providers, which means “a person engaged in the primary or secondary business of selling or distributing prepared food or beverages for on-premise or off-premise consumption including but not limited to: (a) food service establishments, caterers, temporary food service establishments, mobile food service establishments, and pushcarts; (b) retail food stores (c) delicatessens; (d) grocery stores; (e) restaurants; (f) cafeterias; (g) coffee shops; (h) hospitals, adult care facilities, and nursing homes.
● Include language prohibiting the use of EPS loose fill, aka packaging peanuts.

CITIZENS CAMPAIGN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SUPPORTS BANNING EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING IN CONNECTICUT

CCE is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment

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