

DRAFT

DATE

Honorable Ellen Corbett
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: (916) 327-2433

Honorable Elaine Alquist
State Capitol, Room 5068
Sacramento, CA 95814
VIA FAX: (916) 324-0283

RE: SB 568 (LOWENTHAL) POLYSTYRENE FOOD CONTAINERS – SUPPORT

On behalf of the City of Milpitas, I am asking that you support passage of Senate Bill 568. SB 568 will prohibit distribution of expanded polystyrene (EPS, also known as Styrofoam™) carryout food containers by food vendors for prepared foods.

These containers, designed for single use by consumers, can impact the environment in long term, harmful and expensive ways when improperly discarded as litter. EPS containers are light weight and easily become wind borne and water borne litter. They migrate into local waterways and the South San Francisco Bay. The California Coastal Commission reports that EPS is the second most abundant form of debris on California beaches. Recycling used EPS containers is not viable due to contamination with food and incompatibility with mixed collection recycling systems, which is the case with City of Milpitas recycling programs.

Passage of this bill would assist California jurisdictions with trash abatement provisions of the Non-point Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater permit. This permit requires elimination litter in stormwater conveyance systems by 2022.

To date, 48 California jurisdictions have banned EPS carryout food containers within their jurisdiction, but passage of AB 568 will create a Statewide, uniform policy to control this product.

Please vote YES on SB 568 and help California reduce use of this product.

Sincerely,

Jose S. Esteves, Mayor
City of Milpitas