



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

April 23, 2018

The Honorable Evan Low  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 2921 (Low): Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Packaging Recovery and Recycling Act**

Dear Assemblymember Low:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to oppose AB 2921 (Low). This bill proposes to enact the Polystyrene Food Service Packaging Recovery and Recycling Act, which would grant polystyrene food packaging manufacturers immunity from various anti-trust and unfair competition laws. In contrast, the City of Long Beach recognizes the environmental challenges posed by polystyrene, and is planning to reduce impacts of polystyrene in our environment by banning the product citywide. AB 2921 simply goes against the environmental values of the City and our local ordinance.

Long Beach has made it a priority to reduce single-use packaging in our City, first by banning single-use plastic bags in 2011, and most recently by banning polystyrene to benefit our community and environment. On April 17, 2018, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved a local ordinance to phase in a ban on polystyrene products over the course of the next 18 months. Long Beach's ordinance prohibits the use of single-use food and beverage containers made of expanded polystyrene foam, rigid polystyrene #6, as well as non-recyclable food and beverage containers.

While this bill makes a small attempt to reduce the environmental impacts of polystyrene foam, the voluntary nature of the recycling framework proposed in AB 2921 for producers of polystyrene undermines the City's investments in our environment.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully opposes AB 2921 (Low).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. West".

Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly  
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District  
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District  
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District  
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District  
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District