



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

May 24, 2017

The Honorable Ben Allen  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 5072  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for Senate Bill 705 (Allen). Solid waste: expanded polystyrene food service containers**

Dear Senator Allen:

On behalf of the Long Beach City Council, I write in support of Senate Bill 705 (Allen). This bill would enact the Ocean Pollution Reduction Act of 2017, which would prohibit a food provider, on and after January 1, 2020, from dispensing prepared food to a customer in an expanded polystyrene food service container.

As a beach city, Long Beach sees the impact plastics and other forms of packaging have on our environment. It has been observed that plastic food service containers are a major component of urban litter, and often wash up in our waterways and beaches. Marine life is also known to consume small polystyrene particles, which may cause adverse impacts to human health. The challenges arising from expanded polystyrene are widely documented. The California Coastal Commission notes polystyrene is the second largest source of litter on California beaches, and the Ocean Protection Council estimates the current cost of cleaning up marine debris annually reaches \$1 billion.

On December 20, 2016, the City of Long Beach took a progressive approach to addressing this issue by beginning the process to adopt our own local ordinance to prohibit the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene in the City. Long Beach appreciates language in SB 705 to explicitly authorize local jurisdictions to adopt single-use take-out food packaging ordinances, regulations, or policies that are more restrictive than the applicable standards required by this bill. The City of Long Beach has a long history of supporting environmental legislation to the benefit of our marine environment, and we appreciate the effort to expand these policies statewide.

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West  
CITY MANAGER

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