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California Resource Recovery Association

May 26, 2009

The Honorable Kevin De Leon, Chair
Assembly Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Office 2114
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBMITTED VIA FACSIMILE: 916-319-2145

AB 1358 (Hill, co-authors Brownley, Huffman, Monning, Nava, Skinner) SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member De Leon:

CRRA supports AB 1358, which would ban the use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) take-out food containers. EPS (known by its trade name, Styrofoam™) take-out food packages and cups are single-use products that quickly become waste that is particularly susceptible to air-borne migration into the litter stream. It adds significantly to pollution in creeks and water ways, and is in turn consumed by and often kills birds and marine life.

EPS burdens local government with cleanup costs that could be better utilized if it was banned. Post-consumer ESP take-out food packages and cups are not viable products for recycling due to high specification for the material to be clean vs. the inherent food contamination of used containers, and prohibitively high transportation costs due to its light weight and bulky characteristics. And EPS can be easily replaced with safer and more sustainable alternatives.

EPS appears to be a low-cost product for food vendors. But the hidden costs to local governments, taxpayers and the environment can no longer be ignored

We urge you to support AB1358.

Sincerely,

J. Muir

Julie Muir
President, CRRA

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