



June 14, 2011

**Mar Vista
Community Council**

P.O. Box 66871
Mar Vista, CA 90066

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2010-2011**

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Certified Neighborhood Council
August 13, 2002

Senator Alan Lowenthal
California Senate District 27
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Lowenthal,

The Mar Vista Community Council would like to express its support of Senate Bill 568. Polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam™) takeout food and beverage containers are used once for a short time before they become waste, and often litter. Senate Bill 568 proposes to reduce litter and waste generated from polystyrene foam takeout food packaging by prohibiting a food vendor from dispensing prepared food to a customer in a polystyrene foam food container.

The MVCC believes this to be a social justice as well as an environmental issue. Studies demonstrate that polystyrene food containers are harmful to human health. The styrene in food containers leaches into the food when heated, or in contact with acids, or grease and oil. U.S. EPA scientists found Styrene in 100 percent of all human tissue samples in a 1986 study.

As is so often the case, these dangers to the general population are even more acute for the workers who must deal with the substance most directly and most often. Styrene is a possible human carcinogen and a known lab animal carcinogen, and workers exposed to it may suffer increased risk of leukemia and lymphoma and neurological problems such as loss of hearing, balance, and spatial orientation.

Polystyrene packaging is pervasive in the environment, is extremely damaging throughout its lifecycle, and is rarely recycled. Because it is lightweight, floats, and easily breaks into small pieces, polystyrene packaging is easily carried from streets through storm drains to the ocean where it constitutes the second most abundant form of beach debris littering urban California beaches.

At a time when local agencies are facing budget challenges, the costs incurred to deal with polystyrene waste clean-up are significant. This is especially true of Southern California communities with impaired waterways that are required by the US Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) to reduce litter. Since 2001, Southern California cities have spent in excess of \$1.7 billion removing trash from our storm drain systems leading to the L.A. River and our local watershed, Ballona Creek, in order to comply with EPA stormwater regulations.

The Mar Vista Community Council supports Senate Bill 568 which represents a determined statewide effort to reduce litter, eliminate costly waste, prevent the proliferation of marine debris and protect human health.

Thank You,



Albert Olson
Chair
Board of Directors
Mar Vista Community Council

Cc: State Senator Ted Lieu, 28th District
Assemblymember Holly J. Mitchell, 47th District
Assemblymember Betsy Butler, 53rd District
Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, 11th District