

[Draft Letter of Support for House Bill 25]

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**Letter of Support for HB 25**

Dear Members of the Alaska State Legislature:

In October 2025, the Bethel City Council adopted [Ordinance 25-13](#) which prohibits businesses from providing prepared foods in disposable polystyrene foam (“Styrofoam”) in favor of safe, biodegradable and compostable non-plastic alternatives. The ordinance also strongly encourages food vendors to reuse food service ware in place of disposable food service ware. In addition, the ordinance also prohibits single-use plastic carryout bags to customers at the point of sale.

The community of Bethel, including our businesses, strongly supported and are enthusiastic about the ordinance because of our interest in reducing litter, protecting our health and environment, and promoting sustainability. We are deeply concerned about the problem of plastics, particularly microplastics that degrade from plastics such as polystyrene, in our environment and traditional foods.

We strongly support HB 25, sponsored by Representative Josephson, because it would reduce the problem of plastics on a statewide basis. It is a practical approach that is economically viable for businesses around the state because of the availability of bulk purchasing options for compostable packaging. This is an important measure to protect our health from exposure to carcinogenic chemicals that can leach from polystyrene containers into our food and beverages.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Lisa Strickler, City Manager, City of Bethel][or designee]