



February 21, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) has operated a sustainable and efficient recycling center in Alaska for over 27 years. VCRS is a 501(c)(3) community non-profit dedicated to reducing waste and increasing recycling and reuse in the Mat-Su Borough through recycling operations, education, and outreach. Our mission is to reduce, reuse, and recycle, aiming to minimize landfill usage and promote sustainable practices in our community. We primarily serve the MSB and collect recycling from as far as Denali and Copper River Valley with our partners. On an average week, we see over 1,200 visitors dropping off household recycling. Last year, we diverted 2,025 tons of material from our local landfill.

HB25 greatly aligns with VCRS' environmental mission and community goals to reduce waste and promote sustainability. HB25 restricts certain use of polystyrene foam disposables, e.g. Styrofoam, which is currently not a recyclable plastic in Alaska. There is little to no market demand for recycled polystyrene material, meaning it is shipped into Alaska for single-use and then disposed of in our landfills or littered in the environment. HB25 encourages biodegradable or compostable alternatives, which would provide disposable convenience without the polluting polystyrene. This bill is not prohibitive and allows exemptions in the instance alternatives are inaccessible, thus encouraging best practices while accommodating hardship.

This bill supports efforts to reduce plastic waste at the source, before it reaches consumers, which is a critical step to make before recycling or reusing. Polystyrene foam persists for centuries in our landfills and environment, increasing the burden on valuable landfill space. Reducing use of polystyrene foam will better public and environmental health by lessening exposure to the hazardous chemical styrene.

Our community has invested interest in VCRS' mission and goals. We have over 1700 annual donating members, partnerships with the MSB Solid Waste Division, and growing use of recycling services. Successful efforts to ban plastic bags in Wasilla and Palmer makes the public's demand to reduce plastic waste incredibly evident. VCRS would urge the passing of HB25 in accordance with our mission to advance waste reduction, reduce landfill burden, preserve our local environment, protect public health, and bolster community sustainability efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tamara Boeve  
Executive Director  
Valley Community for Recycling Solutions

*Our vision is to establish the greater Mat-Su Borough as a model zero landfill community.*

*Our mission is to operate a cutting edge Resource Recovery & Training Park while educating, training, and fostering partnerships to reduce, reuse, and recycle for the long term good of all.*

VCRS is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your contribution is tax deductible. EIN 92-0174289