



February 19, 2026

Dear Representative:

I am writing on behalf of the MatSu Zero Waste Coalition to urge your support of HB25, a ban on styrofoam restaurant take out containers.

The MatSu Zero Waste Coalition is an informal group of citizens who were instrumental in mobilizing support for the plastic bag ban in Wasilla in 2018. During our campaign, we heard growing concern over the proliferation of plastic waste, and overwhelming support for a ban on plastic bags. When the proposed ordinance came before the Wasilla City Council, we heard testimony of people fed up with plastic trash littering the environment, local reindeer and other animals dying from plastic ingestion, and the growing amounts of microplastics which are now known to be everywhere, even in the air that we breath. The Ordinance passed easily, with almost unanimous support from the Wasilla City Council. One year later, Palmer City Council followed suit.

Styrofoam is one more source of ubiquitous trash and pollution that is contaminating our environment, our waterways, and entering our food chain. Not only do styrofoam food containers shed microplastics, they also leak styrene. Styrene is a hazardous material associated with cancer risk, disruption of hormones and likely reproductive harm. Customers who order take out food sometimes microwave the food and eat out of the same containers the food came in, adding to their exposure.

Restaurants are struggling financially right now, and alternative containers will cost more. But when all restaurants order alternative containers, the economy of scale will make the cost go down. Alternative containers may even be manufactured locally at some point. And many customers will be happy to pay a few cents surcharge for take out if it means their meal is free of added toxins.

The MatSu Zero Waste Coalition urges you to respond to the increasing concerns for the proliferation of plastic waste and toxic chemicals by supporting HB25. Thank you for reading this, and for your thoughtful consideration of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Carol Montgomery

Chair of the Plastic Bag Committee

MatSu Zero Waste Coalition