

May 4, 2025

The Honorable Scott Kawasaki, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: HB 25 (Polystyrene Ban) – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Kawasaki:

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) writes in opposition of HB 25.

PLASTICS is the only association that supports the entire plastics supply chain. The U.S. plastics industry is a vital part of the nation’s manufacturing base, producing essential materials and products used across nearly every sector of the economy—from healthcare and food systems to energy, transportation, construction, and consumer goods. With the increased attention on plastic material, our association is committed to connecting companies throughout the entire industry supply chain and encouraging innovation to meet the needs of tomorrow.

HB 25 seeks to ban the use of polystyrene foam in food service ware by prohibiting its use in restaurants and state operations. **HB 25 could impose significant costs on Alaska businesses, consumers, and taxpayers.** Alternative materials can cost up to 2–3 times more, increasing operating expenses for restaurants, small businesses, and food service providers — costs that are ultimately passed on to consumers. The Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office reported that replacing polystyrene clamshells with alternative materials can increase costs by up to 193%, with similarly steep increases for trays, plates, and bowls.¹

A free-market approach allows businesses to determine the most effective foodservice packaging based on performance, cost, and environmental considerations. Polystyrene foodservice containers are preferred by many businesses due to their durability, insulation properties, and affordability. Limiting this choice will impose unnecessary financial burdens on restaurants, particularly small and family-owned establishments, many of which operate on narrow profit margins.

A more effective approach would focus on improving recycling and waste management systems for all materials. Investments in collection, sorting, and recycling infrastructure—paired with data-driven policies such as a statewide waste needs assessment—would deliver more meaningful and lasting environmental benefits than banning a single material.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB 25.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions regarding our position on HB 25 at ibrittain@plasticsindustry.org.

¹ Pennsylvania Independent Fiscal Office, *Economic Impact from Regulation of Single-Use Plastics* (June 2020).
<https://www.ifo.state.pa.us/releases/381/Economic-Impact-fromRegulation-of-Single-Use-Plastics/>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ivy Brittain".

Ivy Brittain
Western Region Director, State Government Affairs
Plastics Industry Association

cc: The Honorable Jesse Bjorkman, Vice Chair
Members, Senate State Affairs Committee