

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene foam (EPS), commonly known as Styrofoam, is pervasive in the waterways and the coastal environment – like most plastics, polystyrene is lightweight and floats; and

WHEREAS, when littered either intentionally or unintentionally due to its lightweight nature, polystyrene foam is carried from streets and through storm drains out to the ocean – the environment, the containers break down into smaller and smaller pieces and are easily mistaken for food by marine animals; and

WHEREAS, because EPS food packaging is contaminated from food residue, recycling is virtually impossible – it takes decades or centuries for it to decompose in a landfill; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has set a zero waste goal for its waste-hauling system and does NOT accept food-contaminated EPS food packaging as recycling; and

WHEREAS, the removal of EPS from the waste stream would not only protect human health, but reduce the cost to local governments for litter prevention, clean up, and disposal; and

WHEREAS, a state bill, AB-2921 (Low), has been introduced which aims to prolong the use of and further institutionalize polystyrene food packaging by calling for increased recycling of polystyrene; and

WHEREAS, the bill simply allows for, NOT mandates, expanded polystyrene food service packaging manufacturers and polystyrene resin producers to form or designate a voluntary self-governing organization which allows them to establish their own recycling goals and assessment fees without holding manufacturers accountable for achieving recycling targets; and

WHEREAS, nothing in current law prohibits manufacturers from implementing these voluntary programs and this bill could prove to be a barrier to the adoption of stronger policies in the City; and

WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene recycling programs have not been adequately proven to work either practically nor economically; and

WHEREAS, the bill punitively seeks to prevent the 115 cities and municipalities in California who have banned polystyrene food containers from receiving grants related to this proposed program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program **STRONG OPPOSITION** to AB-2921 (Low), which would institutionalize expanded polystyrene food container recycling, a material that cannot be reasonably recycled when soiled with its intended use.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

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