SAMPLE PETITION LANGUAGE FOR A BAN ON POLYSTYRENE FOAM

*Use this language as a starting point for your petition to enact a Ban on Polystyrene Foam.*

*We recommend using an online petition so that you can easily reach more people through social media. There are many websites that host petitions for free such as Action Network, iPetition, and Change.org. These sites make it easy to create, share, and manage your petition.*

“We, the undersigned residents of [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION], support the passage of [REFERENCE BILL INFORMATION, INCLUDING NUMBER] – Ban on Polystyrene Foam.

This bill requires businesses in [NAME OF LOCATION] to end the practice of using polystyrene foam takeout containers.

With 9 million metric tons of plastic entering the ocean each year, the world is facing a plastic pollution crisis. We all must do our part to end plastic pollution. Polystyrene foam is bad for the environment and human health. Styrene, the main ingredient in polystyrene foam, is classified as a likely human carcinogen and has been linked to liver, kidney, and circulatory problems.

Polystyrene cups and containers readily leach toxins into the food and drinks they contain and the process is accelerated by heat as well as contact with fatty and acidic foods.

Polystyrene manufacturing is ranked among the top five worst industries in terms of hazardous waste creation. Americans use 25 billion polystyrene foam cups each year. Polystyrene is lightweight and, as litter, it easily travels from streets and through storm drains out to the ocean. Polystyrene does not biodegrade and may persist in the environment for more than one million years.

We call on the [NAME OF GOVERNING BODY] to enact the Ban on Polystyrene Foam in [NAME OF TARGET LOCATION].”