SB 5022

For details on the bill, go to https://zerowastewashington.org/legislative-work/. The major pushback appears to be from the Styrofoam manufacturers, hence that focus in the talking points below.

Call the legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000 between 8am-7pm. You can just say you support the bill, or you can also give reasons, which they will type as you recite.

Reasons to support the ban on Styrofoam food service products (e.g., clamshells and cups), coolers not for medical purposes and peanuts:

- Many cities in Washington and elsewhere and many states have already cracked down on the use of Styrofoam.
- Styrofoam is a major problem in marine waters harming fish and wildlife that mistake it for food. It does not matter how much recycled content is in the cup or container that gets littered on the beach—it causes the same harm to the marine ecosystem.
- In a recent poll, close to 60% of national respondents (including WA) support a ban on Styrofoam take-out food ware.
- Styrofoam is a significant contaminant of recyclables at the recycling facilities, reducing the value of these materials and creating further problems with the overall recycling system.
- Local governments do not conduct curbside collection of Styrofoam due to contamination problems and because it is not cost effective for municipalities to recycle.
- There are many substitute materials and products that are widely used, readily available, and more sustainable.
- People are frustrated with the state of our current recycling system and also all of the plastic pollution in our local and global environment.