



October 20, 2025

Senator Ted Cruz, Chairman
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
Dirksen Senate Office Building 554
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
Hart Senate Office Building 428
Washington, DC, 20510

RE: 48 Members of Ocean Friendly Restaurants and Hotels Support the Farewell to Foam Act (S.897)

Dear Honorable Chair Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee,

We, the undersigned Surfrider Foundation [Ocean Friendly Restaurants \(OFRs\)](#) and [Hotels \(OFH\)](#) – urge you to pass and implement the **Farewell to Foam Act (S.897)** to reduce the harmful effects of expanded polystyrene on our environment and our bodies.

The Surfrider Foundation (“Surfrider”) is a national nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world’s ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network. One of Surfrider’s top priorities includes reducing plastic pollution with our campaigns and programmatic initiatives. Ocean Friendly Restaurants and Hotels are two Surfrider programs that prevent single-use plastic waste by changing the way we eat, drink, and travel.

Expanded polystyrene (“plastic foam” or “EPS”), often recognized by the brand name Styrofoam, is a lightweight plastic foam widely used for disposable cups, food containers, and packaging. While these products are only used for a few minutes, their long-term environmental drawbacks are significant. EPS is non-biodegradable, and breaks into small fragments that persist in the environment for hundreds of years, where they are easily ingested by wildlife and can enter the food chain. Its low density makes it prone to littering and difficult to recycle economically, leading to widespread accumulation in landfills and waterways.

Plastic foam continues to be a top item collected during the Surfrider Foundation beach cleanups, as documented in our [Annual Beach Cleanup Report](#). Additionally, plastic foam production relies on fossil fuels and emits pollutants, contributing to climate change and air quality concerns. Finally, there is growing concern over the harmful effects of plastic on human health, with particular attention to PFAS, phthalates, and microplastics, all of which can be found in plastic foodware, including polystyrene.



As awareness of these impacts has grown, many cities and countries have enacted restrictions on EPS food packaging to reduce plastic pollution. [A recent poll by Oceana](#) revealed that most Americans are concerned about the impacts of plastic pollution on our oceans and health, and support policies to reduce single-use plastic. **78% of U.S. voters support national policies that reduce single-use plastic foam, and the Farewell to Foam Act is a commonsense example.** To date, 12 states and over [250 cities and counties](#) have placed restrictions on plastic foam. **It is time to finally regulate this harmful material on a nationwide scale.**

Once passed, the Farewell to Foam Act would prohibit the nationwide sale and distribution of:

- plastic foam food service ware, as in cups, plates, and take-out containers
- loose fill foam packaging, like packing peanuts
- single-use foam coolers

As [Ocean Friendly Restaurants](#) and [Hotels](#) that have eliminated unnecessary single-use plastic in our operations, we know what it's like to lead in the fight against the plastic pollution crisis. Each business represented here is required to follow a set of criteria to be a part of the Ocean Friendly Programs. The criteria focuses on shifting away from single-use plastic foodware and most importantly **expanded polystyrene foam**. Currently, over 600 restaurants and 30 hotels participate across the country. We estimate that, collectively, we serve over **41 million single-use plastic free meals**, all while avoiding expanded polystyrene.

While the hospitality industry has faced considerable hardships since the COVID-19 pandemic, it has demonstrated that it can adapt and thrive without relying on expanded polystyrene products. [Studies show](#) that restaurants can save between \$3,000 and \$22,000 by eliminating single-use plastic and switching to reusables. The costs of expanded polystyrene – to businesses, human health, and our planet – far outweigh any benefit they once had. We call on you to eliminate these destructive and unnecessary single-use plastic products once and for all, before more toxic waste pollutes our waterways, harms our wildlife, and endangers human health.

We urge the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee to markup S. 897 and schedule a hearing. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Restaurant and Hotel Representatives of:

7 Devils Brewing Company
Coos Bay, OR

Birdsong Brewing Co.
Charlotte, NC

Blue Moon Over Avila
Avila Beach, CA

Bruce & Son
Greenport, NY



Camino Caffeino
Charleston, SC

Pacific Catch
Corte Madera, CA

Essensia Restaurant & Bar
Miami, FL

Pacific Catch
Cupertino, CA

flora
Westhampton Beach, NY

Pacific Catch
Dublin, CA

Healthy Being Cafe & Juicery
Jackson, WY

Pacific Catch
La Jolla, CA

Hemingway Rum Company
Key West, FL

Pacific Catch
Mountain View, CA

Kauai Ferments LLC
Lihue, HI

Pacific Catch
Palo Alto, CA

Kilauea Bakery
Kilauea, HI

Pacific Catch - 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA

Local Ocean Seafoods
Portland, OR

Pacific Catch - Chestnut Street
San Francisco, CA

Lowtide Lunchbox
Ocean City, MD

Pacific Catch
San Mateo, CA

Mitch's Seafood
San Diego, CA

Pacific Catch
Santa Clara, CA

Moku Kitchen
Honolulu, HI

Pacific Catch
Santa Monica, CA

Mud Hen Water
Honolulu, HI

Pacific Catch
Sunnyvale, CA

Nikkei Izakaya
New Orleans, LA

Pacific Catch
Tustin, CA

Noah's
Greenport, NY

Pacific Catch
Walnut Creek, CA

Ocean City Organics
Ocean City, MD

Pineapple in Paradise
Kapa'a, HI

Pacific Catch
Campbell, CA

Pitango Bakery & Cafe
Baltimore, MD



Point Arena Pizza
Point Arena, CA

Precious Oysters Raw Bar Catering
Norwalk, CT

Rincon Brewery
Santa Barbara, CA

Sonoma Pizza Co.
Forestville, CA

State Park Bar
Cambridge, MA

Tastee Tiki @ Ossies Surf Shop
Newport, OR

The Giddy Goat Coffee Roasters
Charlotte, NC

The Porches Inn at Mass MoCA
North Adams, MA

The Tiny Turtle
Cocoa Beach, FL

The Workman's Friend
Charlotte, NC

Trevor's At The Tracks
San Juan Capistrano, CA