



PRESS RELEASE

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Oregon House Passes Bills Aimed at Protecting the Environment

Bills would promote green energy and renewable resources

In celebration of Earth Day, the Oregon House approved two bills that aim to promote renewable resources and green energy, including a phase out of the use of Styrofoam take-out containers in Oregon schools by 2021. Rep. Rob Nosse (D- Portland) introduced the bill on behalf of a group of schoolchildren at Sunnyside Environmental School in SE Portland.

“When Styrofoam containers are used for food serving and storage, the hazardous chemicals in the product can leach into the food, affecting human health and our reproductive systems,” said Rep. Nosse. “We need to protect schoolkids and our environment by working to phase out this harmful chemical product.”



Below is a summary of the legislation:

HB 2762: Phases out the use of Styrofoam containers in Oregon schools by 2021. Studies have shown that styrene, a possible human carcinogen, can leach out of Styrofoam containers, putting Oregon kids at serious risk. Approved by a 47-10 vote.

HB 2187: Ensures that renewable ocean energy is considered when making regional transmission planning decisions. Wave energy and other renewable coastal energy sources are critical to reducing Oregon’s carbon footprint. Approved by a 57-1 vote.

The bills now move to the Senate for consideration. In the coming days, the House will consider a further bill promoting environmental stewardship:

HB 2585: Makes installing and owning electric vehicle charging stations easier for both homeowners and renters. Easier access to EV charging stations is critical to the growth of the electric vehicle industry in Oregon. Scheduled for a floor vote on April 23.

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