

Sample Script to Legislators in Support of HB2376 and HB4448 / SB2211

As your constituent, I ask you to vote to support HB2376 and HB4448 / SB2211, legislation that would ban foam foodware and plastic carryout bags from Illinois. Plastic pollution is a highly pervasive threat to not only the health of our environment but of all Illinoisans as well. Plastic waste is unique in that it never fully disintegrates and instead infiltrates our waterways and affects public health and wildlife.

As you may know, 22 million pounds of plastic enter the Great Lakes each year, and just over half of that ends up in Lake Michigan. We can't recycle our way out of this problem: over 91% of our plastic isn't recycled, and less than 1% of foam gets recycled. Worse yet, our unrecyclable plastic items clog recycling equipment, contaminate recyclable materials, and pass by optical sorting machinery.

That's why we must act now and address the worst of these materials – foam cups, containers, other foodware, and plastic carryout bags. Polystyrene, known more commonly by the brand name styrofoam, has no place in 2024. Will you support HB 2376 and HB 4448 / SB 2211, bills that would ban foam foodware and plastic carryout bags, and help us reduce plastic waste in Illinois?