



*Forming Faithful Stewards,  
Caring for Sacred Waters*

501 Sixth Street  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

February 7, 2019

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Senate Committee on Education, Health, and  
Environmental Affairs  
Miller Senate Office Building  
2 West St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Senate Bill 285: Ban on Expanded Polystyrene Food Containers**  
Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Committee Members:

I am writing to you on behalf of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake to express our strong support of the Maryland Ban on Expanded Polystyrene, Senate Bill 285. I am grateful for the ways in which our Legislature has been active in protecting our environment and we ask you to continue with this important and ongoing task.

Places of worship throughout Maryland have already stopped using foam food containers because **it is the right thing to do**. There are perfectly good packaging alternatives available now that are lightweight, biodegradable, and have good insulating properties to keep food and drinks warm. Over 30 congregations have confirmed that they have already stopped using expanded polystyrene products in favor of alternatives (see attached). Of these congregations, over one-third just started using alternative products within the past 1-2 years. In addition, 100 people have signed on in support of this bill (electronic signatures attached). **Change is possible.**

Foam food packaging may be convenient and cheap, but it creates unsightly litter, never breaks down, and is derived from petroleum using non-renewable resources. Maryland values progress toward renewable energy sources and sustainable living, so the ongoing use of a fuel-based disposable product like expanded polystyrene directly contradicts Maryland's values.

God calls us to continually renew ourselves, improve our behaviors, and be open to new ways of doing things. This is important legislation that would keep Maryland on its current trajectory of living sustainably with God's Creation. We strongly encourage you to support HB 109.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jodi Rose".

Jodi Rose

Executive Director

Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (not a member-based organization)