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Audubon Society of Rhode Island

February 6, 2020

Representative David Bennett
Chair, House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Audubon Society of Rhode Island Supports H7164, Disposable Food Service Containers

Dear Chairman Bennett and members of the House Committee on Environment,

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island and our 17,000 members thank Representatives Bennett, Canario, Jackson, Vella-Wilkinson, Handy for introducing this important piece of legislation. We support the bill and urge you to pass it to the House floor for a vote.

This bill bans polystyrene food containers and plastic stirrers. The polystyrene ban has 3 exceptions, 1) emergencies, 2) for containers provided by the consumer, and 3) for containers the establishment buys “prepackaged at wholesale.”

Polystyrene bans are in place throughout the country. New York City’s Styrofoam ban went into place in July of 2019, Charleston, South Carolina has a ban on foam containers that is effective this year, San Diego and Washington DC also have bans.

Additionally, companies are leading the switch away from polystyrene. Dunkin’ Donuts will finish switching to double-walled paper cups throughout its global chain of stores in 2020. And McDonalds phased out polystyrene in 2018.

Please support this important step in Rhode Island’s journey away from single use plastic products.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Meg Kerr
Senior Director of Policy