



**February 1, 2016**

**Protect Our Beaches, Waterways and Parks -- Remove Preemption on Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Regulation from CS/CS/HB 7007**

**[CS/CS/HB 7007](#) will be considered by the full Florida House of Representatives on Tuesday, February 2**

**Please contact your Representative and urge them to remove this preemption from HB 7007**

- CS/CS/HB 7007 was amended at its last committee hearing to preempt regulation of the use or sale of polystyrene products by entities regulated under Chapter 500 (Food Products – restaurants, grocery stores, etc.). The amendment grandfathers only a handful of local ordinances adopted prior to January 1, 2016.
- Polystyrene is what most people know as “Styrofoam.” It is a commonly used for disposable food containers, ice chests and packing materials (peanuts). Polystyrene is also a component of many types of plastic bags. Polystyrene products are not biodegradable and are a pervasive and growing litter and environmental problem. In addition to the sheer difficulty in cleaning up litter from polystyrene (because it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces), these components are a hazard for animal life and municipal storm sewer systems. Regulation of the sale and use of polystyrene to mitigate its associated environmental and litter problems is not addressed by any state agency.
- In the absence of any state laws to address the problems with polystyrene, several local governments have adopted ordinances. Some ordinances prohibit these products from being used in certain places, such as public parks; other ordinances also prohibit restaurants and other establishments from using polystyrene because it is frequently used for “take out” containers.
- The preemption contained in Lines 344 – 348 creates a regulatory and policy vacuum. There have been no opportunities to discuss the merits of a preemption in any substantive legislative committee. Local governments should not be preempted from regulating this growing and pervasive problem when the state has not acted to do so.

- **CS/CS/HB 7007 is on the House Special Order Calendar for Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please ask legislators to remove Lines 344 – 348 from CS/CS/HB 7007.**

**Contact information for the Florida House of Representatives is attached or click [here](#). You can also use the League's advocacy tool [Capitol Connection](#) to e-mail Representatives.**

Should you have any questions, please contact: Rebecca O'Hara at [rohara@flcities.com](mailto:rohara@flcities.com) or cell: 850-339-6211.

**Thank you for your advocacy efforts.**