



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

Support Bill 228 - Banning Unencapsulated Polystyrene Foam

June 2021



A Resolution Submitted by the Township of The Archipelago

WHEREAS unencapsulated expanded and extruded polystyrene foam (PS foam) is a common and economical product used for dock flotation; and

WHEREAS unencapsulated PS foam, when used as floatation, deteriorates and breaks down through exposure to water, sunlight and chemicals (gasoline, oil & other contaminants), as well as from animals and physical impacts from boats and other debris; and

WHEREAS the environmental impacts associated with the breakdown of unencapsulated PS foam are significant. PS foam is one of the top items of debris found on shorelines, beaches, and surface water around the world. Widespread and global contamination has resulted in PS foam being found in the gut contents of wildlife, including in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin. PS foam causes adverse effects to wildlife when ingested. Laboratory experiments show negative impacts of PS foam on feeding behaviour, growth, hepatosomatic index (HSI), and reproduction. Under certain conditions, PS foam leaches known toxics styrene and benzene. Floating particles of PS foam also has aesthetic impacts on shorelines and waterways; and

AND WHEREAS there is no Federal legislation in Canada regulating the use of unencapsulated expanded polystyrene foam (EPS) for docks to date. However, on May 13, 2021, the Province of Ontario passed *Bill 228: Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act*, to regulate and control its use for floats; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) recognizes the need for PS foam to be encapsulated when used for flotation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cities Initiative and its members call on the Federal Government of Canada (Ministries of Fisheries and the Environment) the Province of Ontario (Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry), the Province of Quebec, The United States (U.S.) Federal Government, and the U.S. States of New York,

Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota to work in collaboration with each other to enact laws which:

1. ban unencapsulated polystyrene (PS) products in all new and replacement public and private floating facilities across the Great Lakes Region and the coasts of Canada and the United States;
2. find common standards of defining encapsulation with the goal of zero emissions of PS foam;
3. require the timely transition to approved encapsulated PS products, for all public and private floating facilities currently using unencapsulated PS foam; and
4. require the proper disposal of all unencapsulated expanded polystyrene (EPS) products currently being used for dock flotation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago directs its staff to submit this resolution to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative; and forward this resolution to all municipalities in the Great Lakes watershed and to Federal and Provincial Representatives.