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SENATOR
MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO
54TH DISTRICT

VICE CHAIRMAN, SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

January 2015

Hon. William de Blasio, Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

As the New York State Senator representing the 54th Senate District, I am writing to voice my strong objections to the New York City ban on polystyrene cups and containers that becomes effective July 1, 2015. The ramifications of this ban will be felt all across New York State, but it will have a particularly devastating effect on one of the businesses within my Senate District. The Pactiv corporation is one of the largest manufacturers of food service packaging products in the country. Their products are made from virgin fiber or recycled paper. They are biodegradable and recyclable, but under the ban you are implementing, their products would be prohibited in New York City.

Because of its light weight and low price, most polystyrene is manufactured in close proximity to its final market. New York State is home to several companies that manufacture these items and as I have mentioned, one of these companies is located within my Senate District. A ban in New York City would have an immediate and dire effect on these in-state businesses that supply New York City restaurants and food service establishments with disposable containers.

According to a study conducted by research firm MB Public Affairs, there are over 1,200 polystyrene manufacturing jobs in New York State. All of these jobs would be in serious jeopardy if New York City banned this material. That represents \$54 million in lost wages alone, and an even greater impact on the business that use these food service containers.

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As the New York State economy continues to recover, this ban harm businesses and consumers in New York City and cause a significant loss of jobs in my Senate District.

Reducing waste and increasing recycling are laudable goals, but the truth is, this ban will not accomplish those objectives and it will harm a great many hard-working New Yorkers. Paper products coated with heavy plastic, which are some of the most common alternatives to polystyrene foam, cannot be recycled according to the New York City Department of Sanitation's own website. On the contrary, the Styrofoam manufactured by Pactiv is recyclable.

Instead of banning polystyrene foam, an effort should be made to create stronger recycling programs using this product. Similar programs already exist in sixty five cities across the country – including Los Angeles. I am, therefore, respectfully requesting that you consider this option as an alternative to an outright ban on the product.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. If I can provide further information on this very important issue, please feel free to contact me.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Nozzolio". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael F. Nozzolio,
Senator, 54th District