



February 2, 2021

Dear MPP Miller,

We are writing in support of Bill 228, Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act, 2020. We thank you for your leadership on this matter.

FOCA is an Ontario association of over 500 community groups and represent the interests of the 250,000+ waterfront landowners who collectively contribute over \$800 million each year in property taxes, and who collectively own 15,000 kilometres of freshwater shorelines and 50,000 hectares of environmentally important lands.

As stewards of our precious freshwaters, waterfront property owners see firsthand the impact of microplastics and other contaminants on our biodiversity. Polystyrene foam is a major plastics pollution source in our lakes. In Ontario, the genesis of much of this material is from unencapsulated polystyrene foam used primarily in the construction of floating docks.

This situation has been borne out by research including the work of the Georgian Bay Association (see: <https://georgianbay.ca/seabins-at-marinas-to-scoop-up-plastic-waste/>). There is further information available here: <https://georgianbay.ca/water/water-quality/dock-foam/> and <https://georgianbayforever.org/?s=dock+foam>

Instituting this ban will encourage the expansion and creation of manufacturing viable alternatives in Ontario. This could lead to more employment and business opportunities in both technical innovation and manufacturing and could establish Ontario as a leader in environmentally friendly dock construction.

This bill could go a long way to reducing the plastic pollution that originates from the use of unencapsulated polystyrene foam and will help us to protect our valuable Ontario lakes and rivers.

Thank you again for your initiative to put this into legislation, and we look forward to seeing this Bill passed and implemented for our common benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Rees'.

Terry Rees, Executive Director
On behalf of
Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations, Inc.