

# Don't Waste Our Landfill Space:

The costly impact of Styrofoam on Virginia's megalandfills



## Our Landfills

- Waste companies import out-of-state waste into Virginia landfills.
- For the 8 Virginia counties with megalandfills, the waste importation industry earns counties around **\$2.5 to \$6 million per year**.
- In 2018, the waste company Green Ridge promised to increase Cumberland county's annual revenue by **10-20%** with the approval of a new landfill site.



Fact: Sussex, Charles City, Cumberland, King George, King & Queen, Gloucester, Amelia, and Brunswick County all have megalandfills

## Styrofoam in our Landfills



Although expanded polystyrene (EPS), also known as Styrofoam, is made up of 95% air, EPS takes up a lot of volume. In fact, EPS makes up **over 30% of all plastic waste by volume**. The space-taking nature of EPS threatens to consume the limited landfill space in Virginia. With less space for the waste importation industry, Virginia counties threaten to weaken the partnerships that offer a lifeline to industrial development.

## Our Policy Recommendation: Statewide Ban on EPS Food Containers

- There are already 100+ ordinances across the United States that have banned the sale or distribution of EPS food containers.
- The entire state of Maine has enacted this ban.
- For Virginia, a ban on EPS food containers would greatly reduce polystyrene waste accumulation in landfills, to make the most use of landfill space that supports the most vulnerable counties.

**Let's not waste landfill space and dampen our economy.**

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