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CAVALIER JOHNSON
ALDERMAN, 2ND DISTRICT

Congratulations to the State of Maine for its stewardship in protecting our environment

A statement from Alderman Cavalier Johnson

May 3, 2019

On Tuesday, May 2 the governor of the state of Maine signed a bill into law that will ban food containers made of Styrofoam, also known as polystyrene. The new law also applies to restaurants using polystyrene cups and plastic beverage stirrers.

Maine becomes the first state in the nation to ban foam food containers and cups. The ban takes effect on January 1, 2021.

I congratulate the residents and legislators of Maine for taking this important action to stem the plastic pollution that is proving costly and yes, deadly, to our wildlife and eco-system. Plastic foam food containers are among the top 10 most commonly littered items in the U.S. Polystyrene – Styrofoam – cannot be recycled as many other products can be, so these containers once used and discarded will be around in our environment for decades to come. Eventually they will break down into particles, which will continue to pollute our eco-system and hurt our wildlife, and negatively impact our economy.

I encourage our own local and state legislative bodies here in Wisconsin, as well as our business communities and residents, to take a lesson from Maine and actively explore innovative and eco-friendly ways to reduce our dependence on and unnecessary waste of materials that not only harm our environment now but will do so for generations to come. Together we can continue this excellent example of stewardship in our communities as well.

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