



# Statement

For Immediate Release

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## CONSUMERS CAN BE CONFIDENT IN THE SAFETY OF POLYSTYRENE FOODSERVICE PACKAGING

*Proposition 65 Activity Does Not Affect Polystyrene's Strong Safety Assessments by Regulatory Bodies Around the World*

WASHINGTON (Feb. 27, 2015) – The California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has begun the process of listing styrene under the state's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, which is commonly referred to as Proposition 65. In response to inquiries about OEHHA's action related to styrene, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement to both highlight regulatory bodies' determinations that polystyrene has been safely used in foodservice products for more than 50 years and that polystyrene is fundamentally different from styrene. The following statement can be attributed to Mike Levy, Senior Director for ACC's Plastics Foodservice Packaging Group:

“For more than 50 years, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and regulators around the world have concluded that polystyrene is safe for use in foodservice packaging. Consumers should know that styrene is a fundamentally different material with distinctly dissimilar properties from polystyrene, and therefore California's action related to styrene under Proposition 65 has no bearing on polystyrene's safe use in foodservice products.

“OEHHA's announcement of its Notice of Intent to List styrene under Proposition 65 merely starts an administrative process. This action is based on a review of styrene by the National Toxicology Program, which itself agrees the safety of polystyrene in foodservice is not in question - pointedly saying that styrene in polystyrene foodservice packaging is ‘not an issue.’

“Polystyrene is an FDA-approved and sanitary choice for foodservice packaging made by schools, hospitals, restaurants, food carts and stadiums. Its ability to insulate and maintain food temperature make polystyrene a great choice for keeping food fresh, hot or cold and ready to eat. It is also used in a variety of other important consumer products, such as insulation and cushioning for shipping delicate electronics.”

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