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Restaurant Action Alliance NYC, Small Business Owners, Recyclers and Manufacturers React to Supreme Court Decision on Foam Ban

New York, NY – The Restaurant Action Alliance of New York City and a coalition of restaurant owners, foam manufacturers and foodservice industry leaders today expressed disappointment with a state Supreme Court decision that paved the way for the de Blasio Administration’s proposed ban on polystyrene foam.

Under the proposed ban on foam, New York City would continue to landfill 80% of post-consumer polystyrene – at a great cost to the City and businesses across New York.

Randy Mastro, attorney for the RAA and the coalition of industry leaders, said: “We are deeply disappointed by this decision and reviewing our legal options. Local law requires soft foam recycling so long as it can be accomplished in an economically feasible and environmentally sound way. Here, the industry's plan does just that. as the City has conceded, it would put millions of dollars more into the City's coffers while guaranteeing a comprehensive recycling market for years to come, and it would result in less polystyrene going to landfills than this soft foam ban alone. Moreover, it would protect our City's small business owners and consumers who have come to depend on cost-effective soft foam food service items to survive and

thrive. That's a 'win-win' for the City that the DeBlasio Administration seems bent on squandering."

"Foam provides exceptional cost savings and functionality for small businesses and ethnic restaurants, which, like mine, have served our communities for decades. The decision today which will essentially continue the City's misguided ban, will surely drive some of us out of business," said Akesha Freeman, President of the Restaurant Action Alliance NYC, which is a coalition of restaurant owners, managers and workers. "We're urging Mayor de Blasio to reconsider. We're also calling on Speaker Corey Johnson and the leaders of our city to pass legislation that implements a recycle foam program that passes on significant savings to small business owners."

A ban of foodservice foam would harm small business owners: the alternatives to foodservice containers would cost 2.5 to 3 times more than foam, thus costing businesses owners millions of dollars more per year.

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