

From: City of Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission

To: City of Minneapolis Health Department, Food, Lodging & Pools Public Service Center, 250 S. 4th St., Room 510, Minneapolis, MN 55415

We are writing in support of the scheduled deadline on exemptions to the Green To Go Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance. Currently, the Minneapolis City Ordinance exempts Polyethylene (PE) lined paper hot and cold cups and containers for liquids, and the rigid polystyrene lids that pair with those containers. We feel those exemption termination dates should remain in place to take effect on April 22, 2019.

Currently, the City of Minneapolis does not participate in a market that recycles polystyrene plastics and polyethylene lined paper products, so these materials are hauled to the local landfills or the incinerator. The Green To Go ordinance was designed to support the Title 10 Food Code of the Minneapolis City Ordinance §204.10, which aims to “minimize the city's waste stream, so as to reduce the volume of landfilled waste, to minimize toxic by-products of incineration, and to make our city and neighboring communities more environmentally sound places to live.”

Extending these exemptions does not align with our city values. We ask that the Health Department stay focused on the mission when reviewing exemption requests on these materials. In 2015, the Minneapolis City Council established a goal to recycle and compost 50% of its citywide waste by 2020 and 80% by 2030. The Green to Go ordinance was enacted in 2015, and we feel three years is adequate time to give businesses to use existing inventory and find vendors to supply alternative, compostable products.

Sincerely,

Community Environmental Advisory Commission