

Dear Members of the New York State Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong opposition to Governor Cuomo's proposed ban on single-use polystyrene food containers. If enacted, a ban on these materials would drastically increase the cost of doing business and I will ultimately be forced to raise the prices I charge my customers.

My name is Bob Canton and I am the owner of Memphis King Southern Smokehouse BBQ in Schenectady. My son and I established the business in 2013. Crafting delicious barbecue is my passion. I developed my recipes during the 10 years I spent in Memphis and brought them back to my hometown here in New York.

Right now, the menu items I offer are extremely affordable and one of the reasons I am able to keep those prices low is the cost of Styrofoam or polystyrene containers. I pay \$15 per case of polystyrene food containers, but if I were forced to abandon them and use more expensive plastic containers, I could end up paying \$60 to \$70 per case.

At my business, I go through roughly 200 cases of polystyrene containers each year. Having to purchase the more expensive containers could increase my overhead by \$1,100 annually. The business cannot absorb a cost increase like that, so we would be forced to raise our prices. Other small, family owned business like mine will have to do the same – raise our prices or go out of business. In a way, this proposal would effectively create a new tax on food containers.

We all care deeply about the environment, and I am happy to see elected officials are interested in preserving our planet, but polystyrene waste makes up such a small percentage of the garbage we produce each day. This proposal would be more of a detriment to passionate small business owners and our customers than it would positively impact the environment. It would generate more smoke than heat.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject Governor Cuomo's proposal to ban polystyrene.

Sincerely,

Robert Canton  
Owner  
Memphis King Southern Smokehouse BBQ  
1902 Van Vranken Ave, Schenectady, NY 12308