Resolution R-17-20
The University of Alabama
25th Senate 2020-2021

Authors: Senator Adam Rogers


Endorsements: Jason Rothfarb, Executive Vice President; Sam Rickert, Vice President for Student Affairs; Will Henson, Interfraternity Council Director of Community Outreach and Wellbeing; United Greek Council Executive Board

A RESOLUTION FOR ALL GREEK AFFILIATED FRATERNITY AND SORORITY HOUSES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA TO DISBAND EXPANDED STYROFOAM (EPS) AND SWITCH TO PLA LINED PAPER FOR FOOD AND DRINK CONTAINERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association assembled.

WHEREAS, Greek life at The University of Alabama produces thousands of pounds of non-biodegradable waste in the form of expanded Styrofoam (EPS). This is detrimental to our local ecosystem, student health, and at a more cost expense compared to other alternatives; and

WHEREAS, due to COVID-19, Greek life has switched to a grab and go food delivery style and in response, the use of expanded Styrofoam (EPS) has drastically increased. Expanded Styrofoam contains the chemical styrene, which has been directly linked to cancer, vision/hearing loss, and many nervous system effects. In addition, expanded Styrofoam leaches
chemicals into the environment when disposed; expanded Styrofoam cannot be biodegraded or recycled being that it takes anywhere from 500 years to 10,000 years for it to decompose; and

WHEREAS, our university’s participation in supporting manufacturing companies that create expanded Styrofoam are releasing toxic biproducts into the atmosphere from the creation process; and

WHEREAS, a solution to this detrimental issue is PLA LINED PAPER. This upgrade is economically cost efficient, environmentally suitable, and more advantageous to our participating student body. PLA lined paper, stands for polylactic acid which is a resin made from corn starch; and

WHEREAS, this durable material is made environmentally friendly due to its chemical compounds and manufacturing process. This renewable resource is feasible because it cost $.12 per unit in comparison to expanded Styrofoam which is $.14 per unit; and

WHEREAS, many other top universities’ around the nation have taken initiative and moved towards a greener future. For example, Stanford University uses biodegradable containers for their dining experiences; and

WHEREAS, other top University’s such as Colorado State University, University of Washington, Oregon State University, and University of California-San Diego have all made major eco-friendly strides. The University of Alabama should become the first southern trailblazer towards a more environmentally positive tomorrow;

Therefore, be it resolved, that The University of Alabama Student Government Association encourages The University of Alabama to aid in implementation of the explosion of expanded Styrofoam (EPS) with a more environmentally suitable replacement in the form of PLA Lined Paper for all dinning purposes in on campus Greek organizations.

Be it further resolved, that copies of this Resolution be sent to: Dr. Stuart R. Bell, President of the University of Alabama; Dr. Kathleen Cramer, Vice-President for Student Life; Stephanie Shamblin, The University of Alabama Student Government Advisor; Chris D’Esposito, Savannah Bullard, The Crimson White Editor-in-Chief; and others as may be deemed necessary at a later date.