

San Rafael Chamber

August 29, 2012

Mayor Gary Phillips and City Council
City of San Rafael
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94915

Re: Proposed Expanded Polystyrene Ordinance

Dear Mayor Phillips and Council Members:

On behalf of the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors we are writing to express our support for the proposed San Rafael Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Ordinance with a few suggested considerations. The San Rafael Chamber currently represents more than 570 businesses with over 12,000 employees.

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce supports the efforts of the City to reduce litter and potentially harmful pollution in our community. We believe that the continued reduction of minimally recyclable and potentially harmful substances will improve the overall quality of our business and residential community.

The San Rafael Chamber believes that the impacts on small businesses should be considered when drafting, approving and implementing this EPS ordinance. Specifically, we encourage you to consider those businesses with current inventories of EPS products. The Chamber recommends extending the grace period from approval to implementation from six months to one year. This extra time will allow current businesses to completely use their existing inventories and properly adjust their businesses to the new ordinance. Additionally, this six month period of additional time could be used by the city for business education and would allow time for possible overriding state legislation regarding EPS to be enacted.

The San Rafael Chamber of Commerce believes that a healthy business community is invaluable to the community as a whole. We appreciate your consideration of our recommendations regarding the EPS ordinance.

Sincerely,



Rick Wells
President and CEO

cc: Chamber Board of Directors
City of San Rafael City Manager,
City of San Rafael Volunteer & Sustainability Programs