



15 Falcon Street.  
Toronto, ON M4S 2P4  
416-485-5103  
[rkindersley@georgianbay.ca](mailto:rkindersley@georgianbay.ca)

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[www.georgianbay.ca](http://www.georgianbay.ca)

January 27, 2021

*Via email*

Dear ...,

We are writing to ask for your support for the Bill 228, Keeping Polystyrene Out of Ontario's Lakes and Rivers Act, 2020 proposed by MPP Norm Miller (Parry Sound/Muskoka). We commend MPP Miller for this initiative and respectfully suggest that this matter should be supported by you and your party on a non-partisan basis.

The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is an umbrella organization for 19 community associations along the east and north shores of Georgian Bay, representing around 3,000 families. We have been advocating on behalf of our land-owning members for over 100 years and estimate that we reach and influence around 18,000 residents of the Georgian Bay. Our mandate is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

The essence of this proposed legislation is to ban the use of unencapsulated polystyrene foam for new dock construction or dock repairs. Polystyrene foam is the major plastics pollution source in the Great Lakes. In Georgian Bay analysis of shoreline clean-up materials collected and Seabin contents (see: <https://georgianbay.ca/seabins-at-marinas-to-scoop-up-plastic-waste/> ) prove that is the case. Reasonably priced alternatives are available for construction of new docks and dock repairs. For more information, please see: <https://georgianbay.ca/water/water-quality/dock-foam/> and <https://georgianbayforever.org/?s=dock+foam>

Instituting this ban will encourage expansion of the industry in Ontario to create and manufacture viable alternatives. This could lead to more employment and business opportunities in both technical innovation and manufacturing and could establish Ontario as a leader in environmentally friendly dock construction. Plastic pollution from docks that use unencapsulated polystyrene foam are a significant global source of plastics pollution in lakes, rivers, wetlands and oceans.

We thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

**Rupert Kindersley**  
**Executive Director**