

June 1, 2021

The Honorable Bill Quirk
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 847 (Quirk)—Electrically Conductive Balloons

Dear Assemblymember Quirk,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support AB 847. This bill proposes to phase out mylar balloon retail by 2025. Mylar balloons, especially when not weighted and released into the air, pose a serious threat to California's environment, waste streams, power grid system, and can result in fires.

As a coastal city with seven miles of beaches and two rivers, the City recognizes the impact of consumer products to the environment. For this and other health reasons, in May 2018, the Long Beach City Council unanimously approved an Expanded Polystyrene Ordinance (Ordinance) prohibiting businesses from using single-use food and beverage containers made of polystyrene, non-recyclable and non-compostable materials for prepared food distribution. As of October 2020, all retail and commercial food containers in Long Beach are free of polystyrene and rigid polystyrene #6. AB 847 aligns with the Ordinance's intent to reduce non-biodegradable products from contaminating the environment or entering waste streams.

Mylar balloons disrupt power lines and spark fires throughout California every year. In 2019, Southern California Edison reported over 1,000 balloon-caused outages, including incidents of dangerous downed power lines. Preventing mylar balloons from entering the atmosphere, as AB 847 proposes, is the best solution.

The City supports legislation that promotes environmentally responsible approaches to consumer goods. Given these reasons, the City supports SB AB 847.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Tom Umberg, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District

