



PERSONAL CARE
PRODUCTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF THE PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS COUNCIL

**ON: HEARING ON HB 3478: AN ACT TO BAN MICROBEADS IN
PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS**

**TO: OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: APRIL 7, 2015

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Statement of Karin Ross
Director, Government Affairs
Personal Care Products Council
April 7, 2015

Good afternoon, my name is Karin Ross and I am with the Personal Care Products Council. I am pleased to be here to support HB 3478, which would ban the manufacture and sale of personal care products that contain microbeads.

The Personal Care Products Council is the leading national trade association representing the cosmetic and personal care products industry. The Council's over 600 member companies distribute the vast majority of products marketed in the US. As the makers of a diverse range of products that consumers rely on and trust daily, from sunscreen, shampoo and toothpaste to moisturizer, lipstick and fragrance, personal care product companies are global leaders committed to safety, quality and innovation.

In Oregon, the overall cosmetics and personal care industry employs 24,000 people and contributes over \$1 billion to the state's overall economy annually.

Microbeads are used in some personal care cleansing products because of their safe and effective exfoliating properties. Microbeads have an excellent health and safety profile, as they present no adverse events such as allergic reactions and they are gentle on skin, especially for consumers with acne or sensitive skin conditions.

The industry shares a common interest with other stakeholders in protecting the environment and our industry takes questions regarding the presence of microbeads in our waterways very seriously. Ahead of any legislative proposals, Council members voluntarily committed to discontinue formulating with microbeads in favor of other viable alternatives. Our members have elected to move ahead with reformulation ahead of any peer reviewed science.

In 2014, a wide range of environmental, governmental and business stakeholders came together in Illinois to negotiate phase out legislation. All stakeholders supported the bill which passed both houses unanimously and was signed into law in June. This collaborative and bipartisan effort was a success for all stakeholders. The Illinois law was accepted by the Council of State Governments (CSG) Committee on Suggested State Legislation and recently become law in New Jersey, Maine and Colorado.

Last fall, U.S. and Canadian stakeholders met with Environment Canada to discuss this issue. Several Canadian provinces participate in CSG and now Environment Canada is looking at the CSG model as a likely North American standard.

This legislation provides an excellent opportunity for Oregon to take action consistent with other states and on a timely basis. It levels the playing field for both domestic and international manufacturers and also provides adequate time for smaller manufactures to comply. In summary, the bill:

- Bans manufacturing of products with microbeads (December 31, 2017)
- Bans retailers from accepting for sale products with microbeads (December 31, 2018)
- Allows one additional year for over the counter drug products to align with FDA regulatory requirements
- Includes unique definitions that are intended to capture 3 distinct types of products
 - Cosmetics
 - Soaps (body washes)
 - OTC drugs (acne products)
- Contains clear definitions to make sure we are capturing the exact ingredient we are banning

The timeframe ensures manufacturers of all sizes have adequate time to reformulate with alternative ingredients that are safe for consumers, the environment and meet all requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The development of a new product involves numerous scientific disciplines and multiple areas of expertise. It is not as simple as replacing one ingredient for another. Reformulation timelines will vary based on company and size, the sourcing of the new ingredient and retrofitting manufacturing facilities.

In summary, this is an issue that our members brought to our attention through their own environmental stewardship programs and public action. As our companies lead in the areas of health, safety and disclosure, we look to be leaders in product stewardship.

On behalf of the members of the Personal Care Products Council, we encourage you to support HB 3478.

Thank you.