



April 7, 2015

The Honorable Jessica Vega Pederson
Committee on Energy and Environment, Chair
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street, NE, H-285
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support H.B. 3478 (Piluso) with Amendments – Prohibiting Synthetic Plastic Microbeads

Dear Chairwoman Vega Pederson,

I am writing on behalf of the Consumer Healthcare Products Association (CHPA) to respectfully propose amendments to H.B. 3478 and express CHPA's subsequent support for the bill. The bill seeks to phase-out the use of synthetic plastic microbeads in personal care products and over-the-counter medicines. The proposed amendment, outlined below, would align the bill with similar laws adopted in four other states.

CHPA is the 134-year-old trade association representing the leading manufacturers and marketers of over-the-counter (OTC) medicines and dietary supplements. Every dollar spent by consumers on OTC medicines saves the U.S. healthcare system \$6-\$7, contributing a total of \$102 billion in savings each year. CHPA is committed to promoting the increasingly vital role of over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements in America's healthcare system through science, education, and advocacy.

CHPA member companies understand that plastic pollution in the environment is of concern to regulators, policy makers, advocacy groups and the public. CHPA's member companies do not oppose the phase-out of plastic microbeads from over-the-counter medications. In fact, many manufacturers have already begun proactively phasing-out the use of synthetic plastic microbeads.

To date, Colorado¹, Illinois², Maine³ and New Jersey⁴ have adopted laws prohibiting the sale of products containing synthetic plastic microbeads, and as many as 25 states will consider legislation on the issue in 2015. CHPA supports uniform state solutions aimed at avoiding a patchwork of differing laws to address concerns related to synthetic plastic microbeads. By mirroring the existing laws, Oregon can mandate microbeads be phased out of personal care products and over-the-counter medicines, while ensuring reasonable effective dates and uniform definitions for key terms.

¹ Colorado HB15-1144 – Signed into law March 26, 2015

² Illinois Public Act 098-0638 – Signed into law June 9, 2014

³ Maine Title 38 §419-D – Became law on March 24, 2015

⁴ New Jersey P.L.2015, c.28 – Signed into law March 23, 2015

To this end, CHPA urges H.B 3478 be revised to define the term “plastic” so that it aligns with other state laws. If “plastic” is not defined, the legislation could be interpreted to prohibit the inclusion of materials such as cellulose and beeswax. For this reason, CHPA proposes incorporating the following definition of “plastic”, which was included in each of the four existing state laws:

“Plastic” means a synthetic material made from linking monomers through a chemical reaction to create an organic polymer chain that can be molded or extruded at high heat into various solid forms retaining their defined shapes during life cycle and after disposal.

CHPA sincerely appreciates your consideration of our position on this important issue. We respectfully urge the inclusion of CHPA’s suggested language in H.B. 3478 and your subsequent support for the bill. I apologize that I am unable to appear in-person to testify this afternoon, as I had a previously scheduled travel commitment; however, if you have any questions regarding our position, please contact me directly via the information below.

Respectfully submitted,



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cc: Members, House Committee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Carla Piluso, Oregon House of Representatives