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To: Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee

From: Carla C. Piluso, State Representative, House District 50

RE: House Bill 3478

Good afternoon, Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee. For the record, my name is Carla C. Piluso and I am the Representative from House District 50, which includes the City of Gresham and a small part of SE Portland. I am here to speak on behalf of HB 3478, which would phase out the production and manufacturing of plastic micro-beads in personal care products.

Before the concept for HB 3478 was brought to my attention, I had never given much thought to those tiny plastic beads that are in everything from body wash to toothpaste. Some popular facial cleansers and other personal care products can contain thousands of non-biodegradable microbeads in a single container. These microbeads are small enough to bypass sewer and water treatment filters, have the potential to absorb toxins, and could harm fish and other wildlife.

In the weeks leading up to the legislative session, a member of my staff visited the Gresham Waste Water Treatment Plant, who gave their support for the bill. She learned that beyond the positive environmental impact of HB 3478, this bill would also prove beneficial for local municipalities as it would make their job easier by eliminating the infiltration of plastic microbeads on the front end, ultimately saving them money and making their job easier.

What's more is that there are plenty of natural, safe and environmentally friendly substitutes for harmful plastic, substitutes that exfoliate similarly to microbeads without harmful environmental side effects. Introducing this legislation is a simple fix, with a great impact.

This bill phases in a prohibition on the manufacturing and sale of personal care products and over-the-counter drugs that contain synthetic plastic micro-beads, with full implementation by December 31st, 2019. The timeframe ensures manufacturers of all sizes have the time they need to make adjustments and meet all requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. Furthermore, this bill was crafted with great care to ensure that small business owners who may sell products with these plastic micro-beads would not be the focus of enforcement, or face unfair fines as result of this bill.

I support HB 3478 because not only is it good for our environment, it will also prove to be cost-saving for local governments across the state by eliminating plastic micro-beads from our water before they arrive at our water treatment plants.

Finally, I want to express my support for the -1 and -4 amendments, which helps to clarify and define the terms "plastic" and "personal care product" within the bill.

Thank you Chair Vega Pederson and members of the committee, I appreciate your time and urge you to support HB 3478 with the -1 and -4 amendments.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
State Representative
House District 50