



Tillamook County
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Department of Solid Waste
Waste Prevention and Recycling

503 Marolf Loop Road
Tillamook, Oregon 97141
PH (503) 815-3975
FAX (503) 842-6473

Email: recycle@co.tillamook.or.us
www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste

Land of Cheese, Trees and Ocean Breeze

May 28, 2015

To: The Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

RE: HB 3478-A

I would like to express my support of House Bill 3478-A and the intent to phase in the prohibition of synthetic plastic microbeads.

Plastic microbeads are one type of microplastics which are entering the marine environment and endangering both marine life and coastal environments. The proliferation of microplastics on public beaches is causing visual damage to our coastal communities. Scholarly articles have also shown that microplastics can absorb and adsorb toxic chemicals, then leach these toxic chemicals following landfall, i.e. into our beaches and estuaries. The presence of microplastics along our coastal areas present a hazard to the well-being and safety of our residents, tourists, and businesses.

The cleanup of microplastics is a necessary but costly activity. A dedicated team of non-profit organizations and volunteers is currently organizing an initial microplastics clean up in Manzanita, and we have already identified at least three further sections of beach in Tillamook County which are in need of cleanup. We are thankful for the Department of Environmental Quality's support of our efforts this year, and hope to be successful in setting up a cleanup program which will enable us to combat this problem as needed throughout the County.

Prohibiting the use of microbeads will not provide a solution to our current microplastics cleanup needs, which is the result of decades of disposal practices, but this bill will decrease the impact on marine systems, the benefit of which we will see in the future.

It is for the above reasons that I urge you to unanimously move HB 3478-A to the floor with a "do pass" recommendation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David McCall".

David McCall
Solid Waste Program Manager