



**Carla C. Piluso**  
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To: Chair Edwards and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

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

RE: House Bill 3478A

Good afternoon, Chair Edwards and Members of the 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 3478A, which would phase out the production and manufacturing of plastic micro-beads in personal care products. This has bi-partisan support and no fiscal impact.

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 hundreds of thousands of plastic 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.

Both environmentalists and industry have come to agree on the need to eliminate micro-beads from our waterways. Some corporations, such as The Body Shop and Johnson & Johnson, have already made commitments to phase out micro-beads from their products—but swifter action is needed to protect Oregon's natural resources and 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 3478A, this bill was beneficial for local municipalities—**it will save them money**. Since wastewater treatment facilities are unable to remove plastic microbeads without expensive retrofits, taxpayers would have to shoulder the cost of upgrading treatment centers.

What's more is that there are plenty of natural, safe and environmentally friendly substitutes for harmful plastic, such as hazelnuts and fruit seeds—which could open up new markets for farmers here in Oregon. 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 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 3478A because not only is it good for our environment, it will also provide cost-savings for local governments across the state by eliminating plastic micro-beads from our water before they arrive at our water treatment plants.

I also want to express my support for the -11 amendment, which closes some unintentional loopholes and ensures the ban is implemented as intended. It will also remove local pre-emption language from the bill at the request of the League of Oregon Cities.

Thank you Chair Edwards and members of the committee, I appreciate your time and urge you to support HB 3478A with the -11 amendment.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso  
State Representative  
House District 50