

Written Testimony for the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee in Opposition to Senate Bill 836

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Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

My name is Candice Smith and I'm with Alima Cosmetics, Inc., a small, Oregon-based cosmetics manufacturing company. I've taken time to travel to Salem today because I think it's important for you to hear directly from at least one Oregon business, not just industry lawyers and associations that claim to speak on our behalf.

I'm also here today because I'm a mother. And like mothers all over Oregon, I'm urging you to maintain common sense protections for our kids. Please don't compromise on the health of our children. We oppose Senate Bill 836.

Rolling back practical protections for families and children in Oregon is irresponsible. As a manufacturer that makes safer products that come in direct contact with the skin, we are diligent about screening ingredients for toxicity. We welcome regulations that help improve the safety of all personal care products including cosmetics – and particularly laws like the Toxic Free Kids Act that provide protections for children.

As a business that invests in identifying and using safer ingredients in our products, we think Oregon's approach is sound. If enacted, we believe SB 836 would undermine the scientific basis of the Toxic Free Kids Act and continue with a status quo that places safer product manufacturers at a disadvantage. The rollbacks included in this bill would break the trust that parents and consumers have placed in Oregon to protect to the health of their children from toxic chemicals used in products.

Manufacturers seeking exemptions to our law should be required to provide proof. We think it's important that the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is able to make sure that manufacturers are actively working with their suppliers and factories to reduce and eliminate chemical of high concern to children's health when they are present as contaminants. But SB 836 would appear to make it more difficult, if not impossible, for OHA to effectively implement this important provision.

Reasonable fees provide support for businesses and protect kids. It is important that OHA has a schedule of fees that is sufficient to cover reasonable estimated costs, including levels of program staffing and external support necessary to protect kids and meet industry needs and expectations. Drastically reducing fees, as proposed under SB 836, will undermine Oregon's ability to effectively implement the Toxic Free Kids Act and reduce the resources available to help businesses comply with the law.

Oregon businesses need more certainty, not unnecessary bureaucracy. Under the new processes proposed in SB 836, businesses would have to wait even longer to know which chemicals will be regulated in which ways. Creating new, unnecessary requirements for OHA to seek redundant approvals from the legislature and governor to take action on toxic chemicals harms Oregon businesses by delaying and limiting our ability to make decisions and investments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of the perspective of an Oregon business. I appreciate your time and leadership on behalf of Oregon families and consumers.