

January 31, 2023

Senator Janeen Sollman  
Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: SB 405 Microfiber Solutions (Support)

Chair Sollman and Honorable Members of the Senate:

Through my work in media production, I've found that most people imagine water bottles and beach toys when thinking of plastic pollution. The mesh of microplastic waste in the ocean is usually sight unseen until it gathers in heaps along the shore as in this photo taken during the January King tides at Road's End in Lincoln City.



Yet the deadliest truth about microplastic poison is nearly invisible. According to this Aug 2021 New York Times story ([Your Laundry Sheds Harmful Microfibers. Here's What You Can Do About It.](#)), textiles produce 35% of the microplastic pollution in the world's oceans (in the form of synthetic microfibers), which would make textiles the largest known source of marine microplastic pollution. That's about 2.2 million tons of microfibers entering the ocean every year.

As outlined in this June 2020 Wired magazine article ([Who's to Blame for Plastic Microfiber Pollution?](#)), cheap synthetic clothing can shed up to 100,000 microfibers at each washing. So-called "fast fashion" is certainly the largest polluter, but even brands claiming to be earth-friendly, such as Patagonia, play into this exploding problem.

Awareness without action in this crisis is unforgivable. In union with the Oregon chapter of the Surfrider Foundation and its thousands of members, supporters and volunteers, I want to express my strong support for SB 405, a bill designed to reduce the amount of plastic microfibers in our environment, waterways and world oceans.

Microfibers from our clothing and washing machines are a major source of plastic pollution that is entirely preventable. SB 405 is one simple solution that can save our oceans and wildlife from irreparable plastic pollution at its source. Please pass this bill into law. Thank you.

Cynthia Gaffney  
Salem Oregon