



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 31st, 2023,

Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, and members of the committee:

There is a large and growing body of science demonstrating the presence and impacts of microplastic and microfiber pollution. It is in our waterways, in the air we breathe, and now demonstrably inside our own bodies. A major source of this harmful pollutant is home appliances like washers and dryers. The laundry process causes our clothing to shed microfibers, which then contaminate other systems. This contaminant will eventually grow beyond our ability to eliminate it if we do not take action.

SB 405 is a simple bill that gets at this looming issue by requiring that all new washing machines sold in Oregon after January 1st, 2026 include a microfiber filter. This is one of those issues that will not present obvious problems until it is too late to solve. Let me say that again: by the time serious health effects due to microfiber pollution are being felt by a significant portion of the population, the oceans and the fish we eat will be permanently contaminated.

Obviously, in an ideal world there would be many more states and countries taking action on this issue. This is a global problem, involving global markets, and Oregon is unlikely to make a game-changing impact without similar action in other jurisdictions. However, I believe it is incumbent upon us to lead by example, to do what we know is right for our future generations, and to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our populace, particularly since it only involves a simple filter. It is my sincere hope and belief that passage of this bill here in Oregon will be a catalyst for similar laws in other states.

Please pass SB 405 out of committee, champion it on the Senate floor, and send it over to us in the House with all due haste. I am eagerly waiting to take it up and carry it across the finish line.

With respect and gratitude,

Mark F. Gamba
State Representative
Oregon HD 41

