



February 11, 2025

RE: Support for Senate Bill 526 - Microfiber Filtration

Dear Committee Members,

Microplastics are a growing threat to people and the environment. They represent a persistent pollutant that is generated from a broad variety of sectors and products including tires, textiles like carpets and clothing, beauty products, and the breakdown of single-use packaging and foodware. There is a distinct opportunity with SB 526 to tackle one of these sources and to design a distinct intervention to address microfiber pollution shed from clothing.

As a clothing brand with distribution to the state of Oregon, we recognize the harm that can arise from fiber fragmentation of both synthetic and heavily treated natural textiles. When these fabrics are manufactured and washed, they shed microfibers that can enter terrestrial, freshwater, and ocean ecosystems and pose harm to wildlife and people. While we will need a suite of approaches to address the global threat of microfiber pollution, mandating inclusion of filtration technology in all new washing machines, as outlined in SB 526 is an important near-term step to address this environmental crisis. The filtration solutions already available on the market effectively captures microfibers of all material types, reducing the total load of microfibers shedding into our lands and waters.

As our sector continues to grow, we must thoughtfully manage our environmental footprint and work collectively to make concrete interventions across the lifecycle of textiles to address this issue. As there is no silver bullet, this will require collaboration between individuals, companies, and governments to fully address the problem. We see downstream interventions such as filtration technology in washing machines as complementary to work that each of our respective organizations is doing to explore upstream solutions such as fabric redesign to ensure fewer microfibers are shed in the first place.

We strongly support this bill and encourage Oregon to become a leader in this space by taking a tangible step forward to addressing microfiber emissions by passing SB 526. We stand ready to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Patagonia