



**February 12, 2025**

**Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301**

**RE: Opposition to SB 526**

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

The Northwest Grocery and Retail Association (NWGRA) serves as the leading advocate for the grocery retail and supplier industry across Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Our members—including retailers, wholesalers, brokers, manufacturers, and suppliers—collectively employ more than 44,100 Oregonians across 409 locations in the state.

We write today to express significant concerns regarding the feasibility of SB 526. If enacted, Oregon would become the first state to impose such a ban, despite the fact that no clothes washers with built-in microfiber filtration systems are currently available on the market. With an implementation deadline of 2030, it is infeasible that manufacturers could develop, produce, and distribute enough compliant units to meet consumer demand within the next five years.

The proposed alternatives—aftermarket filtration additions or in-line filters—introduce additional complications, including unresolved risks of clogging and flooding. Moreover, we strongly oppose any provision requiring manufacturers to incorporate third-party equipment, as this would interfere with warranty agreements and consumer protections.

Additionally, the bill's labeling requirements would impose significant logistical and financial burdens on manufacturers that operate on a national and global scale. Requiring separate packaging exclusively for Oregon would create unnecessary supply chain disruptions and increased costs for businesses and consumers alike.

NWGRA is committed to supporting innovative and effective solutions to reduce waste and protect water systems. However, imposing a market ban without ensuring the availability of compliant products is not practical. We urge the Committee to consider more viable approaches that balance environmental goals with industry feasibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mia Noren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mia Noren  
Legislative Director, NWGRA