

February 14, 2025

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

Re: Support for Senate Bill 526 - Microfiber Filter Requirements for Washing Machines

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

I am writing on behalf of [Baleena](#), a company developing microfiber filtration solutions for washing machines, to express our strong support for Senate Bill 526. This bill, which would require all new washing machines sold in Oregon to include microfiber filters by 2030, represents an important step in tackling microfiber pollution at its source.

While microfiber pollution is a well-documented environmental challenge—recent studies have found these particles in 83% of tap water samples worldwide—the technology to address it is advancing rapidly. Several companies, including Baleena, have been actively developing and testing microfiber filtration solutions, and existing products on the market have already demonstrated the feasibility of washing machine-integrated filtration. The implementation of this requirement by 2030 is not only realistic but also an essential step toward reducing microfiber pollution at scale.

Baleena has been working closely with washing machine manufacturers, fabric care developers, and universities to refine our approach to microfiber filtration. While our technology is still in the pilot phase, early testing has shown promising results. Specifically:

- Our filters maintain washing machine performance without affecting cycle time or water usage.
- Internal laboratory testing confirms visible microfiber capture in every wash across cycle types.
- The system is designed for consumer convenience, with easily replaceable filter cartridges requiring minimal maintenance.

We are particularly excited about Baleena's potential to address three critical factors: effectiveness at removing microfibers, cost-efficiency, and consumer-friendliness. Our goal is to develop a solution that seamlessly integrates into existing washing machine designs while ensuring affordability and ease of use for consumers.

Additionally, we recognize that we are part of a broader movement toward addressing microfiber pollution. Companies such as PlanetCare and Xeros have demonstrated that microfiber filtration in washing machines is both achievable and scalable. Baleena welcomes collaboration with policymakers, manufacturers, and industry stakeholders to ensure that the implementation of SB 526 is guided by real-world data and best practices.

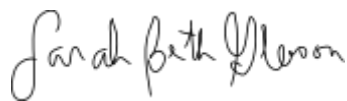
The proposed legislation provides a realistic timeline for manufacturers while addressing an urgent environmental issue. To make this transition successful, Baleena is committed to:

- Expanding real-world pilots to further validate our technology and gather performance data.
- Partnering with washing machine manufacturers to explore integration strategies.
- Engaging with universities and research institutions to advance industry-wide knowledge.
- Collaborating with retailers and consumers to ensure widespread adoption.

We strongly support the intent of SB 526 and believe that, with continued development and collaboration, microfiber filtration can become a standard feature in washing machines. We look forward to working with legislators, industry leaders, and environmental advocates to advance this important initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share insights from our ongoing research and pilots.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Beth Gleeson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah Beth Gleeson
CTO
Baleena
sarahbeth@baleena.co