

We appreciate the opportunity to support this important legislation. Our organizations share an increasing concern about this pervasive pollutant that is found in oceans, rivers, soil, the air we breathe, and in our bodies. AB 823 prohibits the sale and distribution of leave-on cosmetics, cleaning products, and coatings containing intentionally added microplastics, preventing millions of tons of plastic from entering the environment. By eliminating the unnecessary addition of microplastics to products, this bill will protect California's waterways, protect vulnerable communities, and promote safer alternatives, while building upon previous legislation.

The Legislature already acted to ban plastic microbeads in wash off personal care products in 2015 (AB 888, Bloom). However, state law still allows their continued use in leave on cosmetics, cleaning products, and coatings (such as paints), contributing to ongoing pollution. Forty trillion microplastic particles per year are released from household cleaning products alone. These intentionally added plastic particles cause widespread environmental contamination and pose serious health risks to humans and wildlife. Microplastics—tiny plastic particles smaller than 5 millimeters—persist in the environment indefinitely because they continually degrade into smaller and smaller particles. Microplastics have become a pervasive pollutant, found in oceans, rivers, soil, the air we breathe, and even inside the human body.

Microplastic contamination is a burgeoning public and environmental health issue that poses serious threats to animal and human health. Microplastics enter the human body through nasal, dermal, and oral routes to contaminate multiple organs. When wildlife consume microplastics, these tiny plastic bits can block and damage organs and leach potentially harmful chemicals. Microplastics, and the toxic chemicals they convey, can transfer up the food chain. This can be particularly harmful for human populations that catch and consume fish and seafood from our various waterways.

Animal and cell-based studies have shown microplastics and nanoplastics can cause genotoxicity, decreased cell viability (cytotoxicity), oxidative stress induction, metabolism disruption, DNA damage, inflammation, and immunological response. Women, in particular, may face higher plastic-related toxicity risk, due to higher aggregate exposure to plastics at home and even in feminine care products. Microplastics have been found in the placenta and breast milk, and have also been found in fecal samples from infants, including in the first bowel movement, highlighting that babies are exposed to microplastics within the womb, at a concentration ten times higher than adults.

Whether it's microplastics in our bodies or our waterways, it is clear California needs to act to eliminate the use of microplastics at the source rather than relying on clean up once they enter the environment. We ask that you support AB 823, prohibiting the sale of leave-on cosmetics, cleaning products, and coatings containing intentionally added microplastics.

We must take urgent action to prevent further harm from microplastics. AB 823 ensures California remains at the forefront of tackling plastic pollution while safeguarding human health and the environment for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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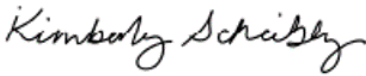
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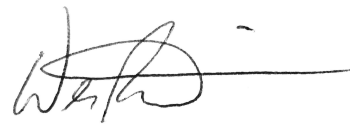
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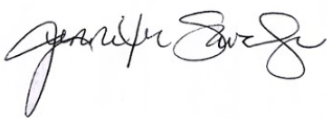
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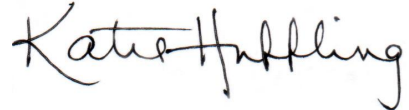
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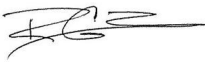
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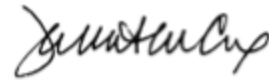
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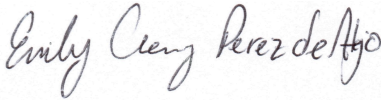
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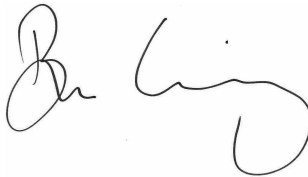
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