



PERSONAL CARE
PRODUCTS COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF THE PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS COUNCIL

**ON: HEARING ON HB 5286: AN ACT TO BAN MICROBEADS IN
PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS**

**TO: CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY JOINT COMMITTEE
ON ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: MARCH 11, 2015

BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Statement of Karin Ross
Director, Government Affairs
Personal Care Products Council
March 11, 2015

Good afternoon, my name is Karin Ross and I am with the Personal Care Products Council. I am pleased to be here to comment on HB 5286, which would ban the manufacture and sale of personal care products that contain microbeads. The Council supports the concept of this bill and we are here to encourage consistency.

The Personal Care Products Council is the leading national trade association representing the cosmetic and personal care products industry. The Council's over 600 member companies distribute the vast majority of products marketed in the US. As the makers of a diverse range of products that consumers rely on daily, from sunscreen, shampoo, toothpaste to moisturizer and lipstick, personal care product companies are global leaders committed to safety, quality and innovation.

In Connecticut, the overall cosmetics and personal care industry employs 59,000 people and contributes over \$5 billion to the state's overall economy annually.

Microbeads are used in some personal care cleansing products because of their safe and effective exfoliating properties. Microbeads have an excellent health and safety profile, as they present no adverse events such as allergic reactions and they are gentle on skin, especially for consumers with acne or sensitive skin conditions.

The industry makes decisions not only based on health and safety concerns, but also based on the potential environmental impact of our products. We share a common interest with other stakeholders in protecting the environment and our industry takes questions regarding the presence of microbeads in our waterways very seriously. Ahead of any legislative proposals, Council members voluntarily committed to discontinue formulating with microbeads in favor of other viable alternatives. Our members have elected to move ahead with reformulation ahead of any peer reviewed science.

In 2014, a wide range of environmental, governmental and business stakeholders came together in Illinois to negotiate phase out legislation. All stakeholders supported the bill which passed both houses unanimously and was signed into law in June. This collaborative and bipartisan effort was a success for all stakeholders. In August, the Illinois law was accepted into the Council of State Governments (CSG) Committee on Suggested State Legislation.

Last fall, U.S. and Canadian stakeholders met with Environment Canada to discuss this issue. Several Canadian provinces participate in CSG and now Environment Canada is looking at the CSG model as a likely North American standard.

We ask that HB 5286 be amended to be consistent with the language approved by the Council of State Governments Committee on Suggested State Legislation and several other states. This language levels the playing field for both domestic and international manufacturers and also

provides clear definitions and adequate time for manufacturers to comply. In summary, the bill:

- Bans manufacturing of products with microbeads (December 31, 2017)
- Bans retailers from accepting for sale products with microbeads (December 31, 2018)
- Allows one additional year for over the counter drug products to align with FDA regulatory requirements
- Includes unique definitions that are intended to capture 3 distinct types of products
 - Cosmetics
 - Soaps (body washes)
 - OTC drugs (acne products)
- Contains clear definitions to make sure we are capturing the exact ingredient we are banning

The timeframe ensures manufacturers of all sizes have adequate time to reformulate with alternative ingredients that are safe for consumers, the environment and meet all requirements of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act. The development of a new product involves numerous scientific disciplines and multiple areas of expertise. It is not as simple as replacing one ingredient for another. Reformulation timelines will vary based on company and size, the sourcing of the new ingredient and retrofitting manufacturing facilities.

In summary, this is an issue that our members brought to our attention with their own environmental stewardship programs and public action. Just as our companies lead in the areas of health and safety and disclosure (e.g., manufacturers provide a listing of ingredients on product labels), we look to be leaders in overall product stewardship and wish to support efforts to seek consensus solutions.

On behalf of the members of the Personal Care Products Council, we encourage you to align HB 5286 with other states. We support this concept and ask for national consistency that provides manufacturers and retailers with reasonable effective dates and clear definitions.

Thank you for considering our views on this issue.