

August 2015

We write to provide our support and perspective as the Michigan legislature considers legislation that would ban the use of plastic microbeads in personal care products and over-the-counter (OTC) medicines.

We recognize the importance of protecting our state's natural resources, and thus applaud the companies that have already voluntarily announced their plans to discontinue the use of these non-biodegradable ingredients. In addition, a number of industry and environmental groups worked collaboratively last year in Illinois to develop landmark state legislation that would codify these actions, thereby ensuring a "level playing field" for all manufacturers, both domestically and internationally. This "Microbead-Free Waters Act" provides clear direction with set compliance dates for retailers, and ensures marketplace consistency within a state. Subsequently, this legislation was adopted by the Council of State Governments (CSG) as "Suggested State Legislation," and has been enacted in six states: Colorado, Maine, New Jersey and notably the Great Lakes states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. In each of these states, this same law was passed with wide (often unanimous) bipartisan votes, and the support of numerous stakeholder groups.

As the personal care products and OTC industries are true models of interstate commerce, we also note the importance of maintaining clear and consistent standards for compliance. There is an extensive process of quality assurance and testing involved in reformulating any product, and the six states' uniform microbeads laws provide manufacturers with the clear guidance necessary to fulfill these obligations and ensure safe, effective products for consumers.

Accordingly, we urge the Michigan legislature to take a cooperative and harmonized approach with three of its neighboring Great Lakes states in addressing a common issue. Indeed, the optimal solution would undoubtedly be a *federal* standard that would apply nationally and preclude a patchwork of potentially different regulations across the states (several of Michigan's federal lawmakers have sponsored such legislation that is currently pending in Congress). However, should the Michigan legislature seek to act in the interim, we believe our state should fully align its laws with those of neighboring states to ensure national consistency.

We appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Michigan Chemistry Council

Michigan Manufacturers Association
Michigan Retailers Association
Personal Care Products Council

Appendix: "Microbead-Free Waters Act" legislation