



January 31, 2023

Re: In support of SB 405

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Beyond Toxics and the thousands of Oregonians who support our work across the state, I'm writing to express strong support for SB 405, a bill to reduce microplastics residue in washing machine waste water. The purpose of Beyond Toxics is providing leadership to build a community-driven environmental justice movement for a thriving and just Oregon.

In 2019, I visited the Oregon coast near the town of Yachats on a beautiful sunny weekend after a storm. I was shocked to see the beach and the rocks covered in bits of plastic. The plastic debris washed ashore with every wave and as the tide receded, the plastic remained on the sand and in rock crevices.

This plastic is not only an eyesore, and potential a deterrent to tourism, it also impacts the ocean and shoreline creatures that ingest it. The harm to the ocean's ecosystem is significant because these plastic pieces and particles do not decompose on the beaches. Well-intentioned beach clean-up programs cannot pick up and dispose of them. The toxic chemicals of plastic debris accumulate up the ocean food chain.

A 2021 study published by the American Chemical Society entitled ["Plastic Products Leach Chemicals that Induce In Vitro Toxicity Under Realistic Conditions,"](#) states that "plastic products contain complex mixtures of extractable chemicals that can be toxic." The study concluded that "our results demonstrate that plastic products readily leach many more chemicals than previously known, some of which are toxic in vitro." The authors' findings highlight how plastics harm the endocrine systems of wildlife. Microplastics polluting the ocean also entrain PCBs and DDT on their surfaces. These are highly toxic chemicals that persist in the marine environment. The study suggests that when a seabird or sea mammal ingests these microplastics, toxic chemicals such as dioxin, are also passed down to the next generation while in vitro.

SB 405 is a great start to reducing microplastics throughout Oregon's rivers and marine environments by tackling the pollution that is formed from garment washing water waste. Ultimately, SB 405 will help prevent further harm to wildlife and our ocean ecosystems. I urge members of the Committee to vote yes to requiring a microfiber filtration system in new washing machines. This is a simple yet important way to take action to reduce the complex problem of microplastic pollution in our environment.

Sincerely,

Lisa Arkin, Executive Director

Beyond Toxics

120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd., Suite 280, Eugene, OR 97401