



Feb. 1, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

**FR:** Derek Sangston, Oregon Business & Industry

**RE:** Opposition to SB 405

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Oregon Business & Industry (OBI) is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private sector businesses help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in opposition to SB 405. OBI opposes SB 405 because its requirements make Oregon an outlier nationwide, impose significant burdens on both businesses and consumers and likely will have unintended consequences.

SB 405 requires that all new clothes washing machines sold in Oregon contain a microfiber filtration system by January 2026.

No other state requires microfiber filters on new clothes washers. As a result, there are no clothes washers that include built-in microfiber filters on the market. Making those the default clothes washers in this state will place a significant burden on businesses selling clothes washers into Oregon and is currently impractical. The three years between now and the operational date of this bill almost certainly provide too little time for industry to address this problem.

While in-line microfiber filters are available as a secondary purchase, requiring such filters will create an additional cost that likely would be passed on to consumers. Such filters also require regular cleaning and maintenance. If microfiber filters are not cleaned regularly, they will become clogged, requiring a bypass that renders them useless. In extreme situations, improper maintenance can cause leaks that flood consumers' homes.

Appliance manufacturers have been trying to develop technology that removes microfibers from the laundry process. So far, they have been able to dramatically improve the efficiency of clothes washers by reducing the amount of water and energy they use. Unfortunately, microfiber filters have been shown to decrease the efficiency of clothes

washers to a degree that it virtually eliminates those gains. That is unfortunate because water and energy consumption has long had severe impacts on the environment.

OBI respectfully asks for the Senate Energy and Environment Committee to reject HB 405. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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