

**February 23, 2023**

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Findley, and members of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee:

On behalf of the undersigned small businesses, government entities, and organizations representing thousands of members in health, cosmetics, and environmental interests we would like to express our support for SB 546, the Toxic Free Cosmetics bill.

People assume personal and beauty products (collectively called “cosmetics”) are safe. But the products we use every day, such as lotions, shaving creams, deodorants, and make-up, contain many chemicals that are known to be hazardous to our health- such as formaldehyde, phthalates, and parabens.

The personal care products and beauty industry is one of the least regulated in the U.S. It is estimated there are over 10,000 chemicals in the beauty market today,<sup>1</sup> and account for a \$100 billion beauty industry.<sup>2</sup> The Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act (FDCA) has only restricted 11 chemicals since 1938, while the European Union has banned over 1800 chemicals.<sup>3</sup> We have a long way to go.

While people across all spectrums use cosmetics, **low-income women and women of color are disproportionately impacted** due to the nature of the marketing and the ingredients that go into products like skin lighteners (mercury) and hair straighteners (formaldehyde). And not only do these chemicals have negative health impacts on the people using the products, they also wash down our drains and into the waterways and surrounding environments. Fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals have all been harmed by chemicals in the environment<sup>4</sup>

**Oregon can take action.** Through SB 546, Oregon can require the public disclosure of all chemical ingredients on a company’s product webpage. Doing so is an accessible way for consumers to make educated purchasing decisions. Additionally, it will regulate and prohibit the sale of the worst chemicals in cosmetics and personal care products, like many other states have to protect human and environmental health.

**We urge your support and vote on SB 546.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ewg.org/the-toxic-twelve-chemicals-and-contaminants-in-cosmetics>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fortunebusinessinsights.com/skin-care-market-102544>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://eeb.org/the-great-detox-largest-ever-ban-of-toxic-chemicals-announced-by-eu/>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://chemtrust.org/wildlife/>.



Beyond Toxics



Breast Cancer Prevention Partners



Campaign for Safe Cosmetics



Center for Food Safety



Center for Biological Diversity



Defend Our Health



Environment Oregon



Healthy Babies Bright Futures



Metro



Naturepedic



Nurturely



OEC



Oregon League of Conservation Voters



Oregon Consumer Justice



Oregon Food Bank



Oregon Nurses Association



Oregon Physicians for  
Social Responsibility



PCUN

Oregon Public Health  
Association



Washington County  
Kids

OSPIRG



We Can Do Better

Our Children Oregon



Women's Voices for the  
Earth