



February 22, 2023

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee On Energy and Environment
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Bill 546 on Toxic Free Cosmetics

Dear Chair Sollman, Vice Chair Findley, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

On behalf of the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club's 74,000 members and supporters, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on Senate Bill 546, for which we strongly urge a vote of approval.

10,000 Chemicals

Did you know that the personal care products industry is one of the least regulated industries in the US and it is estimated that there are over 10,000 chemicals in the personal care products market today, and only 11 of them have been restricted since 1983 by the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act? Think about that as you brush your teeth, wash your face, and put on deodorant, 10,000 chemicals!

Policy Precedent

In 2022, 7 states (CA, MN, NJ, NY, RI, VT, and WA) introduced toxic free cosmetics bills and 6 states already passed various versions (CA, CO, MD, NY, and WI). Oregon can join the effort to hold companies to a higher standard of beauty by being transparent and disclosing the chemical ingredients they use in their products. Transparency will allow for consumers to make more educated buying decisions while also reducing the significant health threat doing nothing may cause.

Health and Environmental Risks

Chemicals in our personal care products pose a significant health threat because they are typically repeatedly applied directly to our skin where they are then absorbed into our bodies and bloodstreams. Some of the most common ingredients found in personal care products come from fossil fuels such as mineral oil, petroleum jelly, paraffin wax, polyethylene glycol, sodium laureth sulfate and isopropyl alcohol. Production of these chemicals are not only bad for our health but the health of our planet. Harmful carcinogens do not belong on our bodies or the bodies of our children.

Join us in support of a more transparent and chemical free future by voting Yes on SB 546.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Dix". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth Dix
Chair, Legislative Committee
Oregon Chapter Sierra Club