

February 15th 2025

Senate Committee on Energy and Environmental

Re: Senate Bill 526

Dear Chair Senator Sollman, Vice-Chair Senator Brock Smith and members of the Committee:

This bill is, as is often the case, getting the cart before the horse. There is no easy way to accomplish this wishful thinking. No doubt this bill will increase costs to appliance manufacturers which will be passed on to the public. For the supporters of this bill that still believe shadowing California legislators is how Oregon should do its business, recall that in 2023 the California governor vetoed a similar bill citing increased costs it would have placed on consumers.

Additionally, would disposable filters be used adding to our landfills? If not they'd need to somehow be cleaned without using water. Using water just moves the cleaned microfibers from one drain to another, as well as increasing water usage.

We already know that washing machines can function very well without a microfiber filter so what is preventing a filter being by-passed or removed by those who choose to?

A better solution to microfibers in the environment would be to encourage the public to use third party add-on microfiber filters or other technologies that remove microfibers rather than mandating them.

It is more important to stop bad legislation than it is to pass good legislation. I urge the committee to table this bill until such time that the technology catches up with the imagination of the supporters of this legislation.

Regards,



Richard Wisner