

Peter Trafton MD, Providence, RI
Written testimony in favor of H7515
House Environment 4.4.2024

Dear Chair Bennett and Honorable Committee Members,

I write on behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island in the strongest possible support for Rep Boylan's 7515 regarding reducing microplastic particles in our environment.

The Environment Council is a coalition of environmental organizations and individuals advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance Rhode Island's environment, for more than 50 years. We believe that 7515 is of great value to our environment and have placed it on our Support Agenda

By now almost all of us are aware of omnipresent microplastic particles. They are filling Narragansett Bay. They are present in our water and food. They have spread throughout our bodies, enter into our cells, and they are harmful to our health. Microplastic particles result from degradation of plastic waste, and they are also added intentionally to consumer products such as cosmetics and cleaning agents.

Sen. Cano's bill will ban sale or distribution of any products that contain intentionally added synthetic microparticles. Additionally, it calls for environmental surveillance in Rhode Island to enable reduction of micro-plastics sources and environmental distribution.

The time is now. This problem is increasing steadily, and we should make every effort to understand it and reduce the plastic microparticle load in our environment.

Thank you very much for considering our request. We hope you will support 7515 and advance its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PTrafton". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the "P" and "T" being prominent.

Peter Trafton, MD