

March 20, 2025

Chair David A. Bennett  
Rhode Island House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Rhode Island House of Representatives  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903-1105

**RE: LETTER OF OPPOSITION TO HB5492 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- MICROPLASTICS REDUCTION ACT**

Dear Chair Bennett, Vice Chair Phillips and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC)<sup>1</sup> to express our opposition to HB 5492. While we acknowledge the noble intentions behind this legislation, we urge the state to consider postponing action considering the European Union (EU) recently finalized a microplastics restriction. We respectfully ask that you pause state action as the implementation of the EU regulation will provide further insight into good regulatory policy in this area.

PCPC advocated for and supported the U.S. Microbeads-Free Water Act of 2015, which was signed into law by President Obama as the first national legislation on microplastic pollution in waterways. Despite little scientific data to suggest that microbeads from cosmetics were a major contributor to environmental pollution, our companies swiftly took action to phase out plastic microbeads from their products. Our industry has a longstanding commitment to protecting the environment we all share. That commitment is further reflected in our member companies' numerous environmental initiatives and partnerships with NGOs.

If HB 5492 were to pass as introduced, it would have a devastating impact on consumer access to personal care products such as cleansing products, makeup cosmetics, hand sanitizer, soap, toothpaste, shaving cream, sunscreen, and shampoo, without commensurate environmental benefits.

We respectfully oppose HB 5492 and stand ready to be a resource as you debate important public policy issues impacting industry and Rhode Island consumers. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Katie Wright  
Vice President, State Government Affairs

Cc: Len Lopes, The Victor Group

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<sup>1</sup> Founded in 1894, the Personal Care Products Council (PCPC) is the voice and advocate for 600 member companies representing the \$535.7 billion global cosmetics and personal care products industry. PCPC's members represent approximately 90% of the U.S. beauty industry and are some of the most beloved and trusted brands in beauty and personal care today. As the manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of a diverse range of products millions of consumers rely on every day – from sunscreens, toothpaste and shampoo to moisturizer, makeup and fragrance – PCPC's member companies are global leaders committed to product safety, quality and innovation.