

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair
Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2762 - Muratsuchi - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Quirk:

We are writing in support of AB 2762, the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi, Buffy Wicks, and yourself.

This important bill will explicitly prohibit the sale of beauty and personal care products in California containing 12 extremely toxic chemicals including mercury, formaldehyde, parabens, phthalates and 13 per- or polyfluoroalkyl compounds (PFAS chemicals).

Today, personal care and beauty products (generally termed cosmetics) that are sold in California and the United States are largely unregulated. Manufacturers can use practically any chemical to formulate a cosmetic product, including chemicals with well-established links to cancer, reproductive harm or birth defects. Equally troubling, neither federal nor state laws require premarket testing by cosmetic manufacturers or their regulatory agencies to ensure that these products are safe before they hit store shelves.

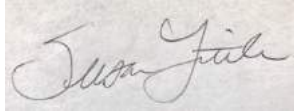
Out of the more than 10,000 chemicals used to formulate beauty and personal care products, the United States Food and Drug Administration has only ever banned or restricted 11. In contrast, the European Union prohibits or restricts the use of nearly 1,400 chemicals in cosmetics, and many other countries tightly regulate cosmetics sold to their citizens. Even major retailers have recognized the problem and have developed their own lists of hazardous chemicals prohibited from use in their own beauty brands, and have recommended that these chemicals be removed from brands they sell in stores.

Californians, unfortunately, remain unprotected. According to the California Safe Cosmetics Program, at least 88 different carcinogens and reproductive toxicants are intentionally added to cosmetics sold in California today. Additionally, numerous tests have confirmed that lead and asbestos frequently contaminate certain cosmetics. And labels indicate that well-known hormone disruptors, and even highly fluorinated substances (PFAS) are commonly found in cosmetics.

As you know, men, women, and children of all ages regularly use personal care products and beauty products. In fact, young women – women of child-bearing age – often use up to 16 products each day, and studies have shown that human bodies absorb the products' chemicals. Californians need and deserve the same protections from harmful cosmetics provided to people that shop for the exact same products in the European Union and numerous other countries.

We very much appreciate your joint authorship of AB 2762, and would ask your committee members to support the bill when it comes before them for a vote.

Thank you.



Susan Little
Senior Advocate, California Governmental Affairs
Environmental Working Group (Cosponsor)



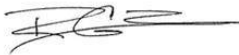
Emily Rusch
Executive Director
California Public Interest Research Group (Cosponsor)



Janet Nudelman
Director of Program and Policy
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Director, Campaign for Safe Cosmetics (Cosponsor)



Nourbese Flint
Policy Director / Program Manager
Black Women for Wellness (Cosponsor)



Ryan Spencer, RGS Consulting and Advocacy LLC for
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District IX California



Robert M. Gould, M.D.

President

San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility


JIM LINDBURG
Legislative Director

Jim Lindburg

Legislative Director

Friends Committee on Legislation of California



Andria Ventura

Toxics Program Manager

Clean Water Action



Karuna Jaggar Executive Director

Breast Cancer Action



Avinash Kar

Senior Attorney

Natural Resources Defense Council



Stephanie Hayden Director, Co-Founder

SmartOakland.org



Melissa Romero

Legislative Affairs Manager

California League of Conservation Voters



Leslie Mintz Tamminen

Director

Seventh Generation Advisors



Lauren Cullom

Policy Advocate

Sierra Club CA



Michael Green

Chief Executive Officer

Center for Environmental Health



Richard Holober

Executive Director

Consumer Federation of California



Jamie McConnell

Director of Programs and Policy

Women's Voices for the Earth

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council

Doug Kobold
Executive Director
California Product Stewardship Council

Ric Kostick CEO
100% Pure

Gregg Renfrew
Founder and CEO
Beautycounter

Mollie Jensen
Sustainability, Compliance &
Communication
Biossance

Sue Farr
Brand Integrity Manager
California Baby

Alicia Voorhies
Director of Marketing
Earth Mama Organics

Gia Machlin
President & CEO
EcoPlum

Mike Engelert
President
Eighty2degrees Design Studio

Meredith Soden
Brand Marketing Manager
EO Products

Susan Wong
CEO
HAN Skin Care Cosmetics
Lauren Doko Director of Marketing
Innersense Beauty

Milena Lye
Founder
Just the goods

Angela Irish
President & Co-Founder
Oz Naturals



Martin Wolf
Director, Sustainability & Authenticity
Seventh Generation



Dee Fitzgerald
Brand Manager
W.S. Badger Company



Annie Tevelin
Owner & Founder
SkinOwl



Suzanne Price
Founder
Sprouts San Francisco


Karen Behnke
Founder
Juice Beauty



Pamela Miller
Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics



Dan Jacobson
Director
Environment California



Polly Marshall
Executive Director Breast Cancer Over
Time



John Rumpler
Clean Water Program Director
Environment America



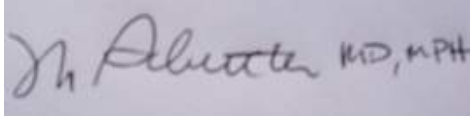
Kathleen Miller
Co-Founder
California Health Coalition Advocacy



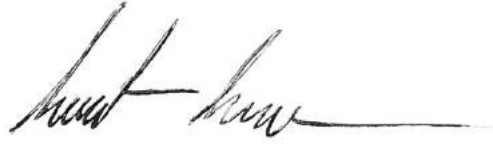
Danielle Melgar
Toxics Advocate
U.S.PIRG



Bill Magavern
Policy Director Coalition for Clean Air

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Ted Schettler,
Science Director
Science and Environmental Health Network

Handwritten signature of Swati Sharma in black ink.

Swati Sharma,
Research and Policy Consultant for
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative