

**MAY 14 2015**

Ms. Carol Hochu
President and Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Plastics Industry Association
chochu@plastics.ca

Dear Ms. Hochu:

Thank you for your letter of April 7, 2015, concerning microbeads. I regret the delay in responding.

As you know, the House of Commons unanimously voted on March 24, 2015, to take immediate measures to add microbeads to the List of Toxic Substances managed by the Government under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*.

To that end, Environment Canada has initiated a scientific review to assess the effects of microbeads in consumer products on the environment. The review will build on the successful work our government has done over the past nine years to reduce the risks that chemicals can pose to the health of Canadians and the environment. Since 2006, we have taken action on more than 2700 substances under the Chemicals Management Plan and we are on track to assess 4300 substances by 2020. We will continue to take measures to keep Canada's water clean and safeguard the health of Canadians while working with the provinces and territories to co-ordinate environmental activities. As noted in your letter, we have called for the issue of microbeads to be included on the agenda of this summer's meeting of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of the Canadian Plastics Industry Association in promoting initiatives like Responsible Care and Operation Clean Sweep in Canada. These are good, proactive measures in protecting the environment.

I recognize that the Canadian Plastics Industry Association is a key stakeholder on this issue and I value its interest in being part of future consultations related to microbeads. Our government appreciates the importance of industry-sector expertise and the need for industry engagement. As such, I have asked Environment Canada officials to notify the Association of any future consultations related to microbeads.

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I appreciate your bringing the views of the Canadian Plastics Industry Association to my attention, and I look forward to working with its members in the future.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leona Aglukkaq', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment