



April 7, 2015

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq
Environment Minister
Environment Canada
10 Wellington Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

By email to: minister@ec.gc.ca

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

It has recently come to the attention of the Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) that the issue of plastic microbeads was discussed during the House of Commons session on March 24, 2015. In regard to the motion raised by NDP MP Megan Leslie and the response from your parliamentary secretary, Colin Carrie, the CPIA would like to share with you a statement (page 2) that we released in June 2014 in response to the microbead announcement from Illinois Governor, Pat Quinn.

Similarly, we support and applaud the recent announcement from New Jersey Governor Chris Christie (on March 23, 2015) which prohibits the production, manufacture and sale of personal cosmetic products containing synthetic plastic microbeads.

As you can read from our June 2014 statement (page 2), CPIA fully supports the phase out of microbeads from use in personal care products, such as toothpaste, shower gels and facial scrubs. We believe that laws such as those announced in Illinois and New Jersey will build on the voluntary efforts initiated by the manufacturers of personal care products. And we encourage the federal government to consider similar efforts to address the issue in Canada. While plastics provide many important benefits to modern life, they do not belong in lakes, oceans or other waterways.

Additionally, we understand from statements made by Colin Carrie and your director of communications, Ted Laking, that Environment Canada is initiating a scientific review to assess the effects of microbeads on the environment, and that the Chemical Management Plan will prioritize microbeads for assessment. We are also aware that the federal government supports the inclusion of microbeads on the agenda of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment meeting in the summer of 2015.

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On this matter, the CPIA respectfully requests to be included in future consultations and discussions related to management options for plastics microbeads, as we know from research and experience in other jurisdictions that there is a wealth of information to demonstrate that the toxicity of microbeads is low and that the products are being phased out.

We look forward to future involvement and discussion on this important topic.

Sincerely

CANADIAN PLASTICS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



Carol Hochu
President and CEO

Copies to:

Colin Carrie, MP and Parliamentary Assistant to Environment Minister

Michael Goeres, Executive Director, CCME

Megan Leslie, NDP MP

Ted Laking, Director of Communications, Environment Canada

The Canadian Plastics Industry Praises the Efforts of Manufacturers and the Government of Illinois in Leading the Phase Out of Microbeads in Personal Care Products

TORONTO (June 20, 2014) – In response to the [recent announcement](#) by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn (Senate Bill 2727) to ban the manufacture and sale of personal care products containing synthetic plastic microbeads, the Canadian Plastics Industry Association (CPIA) provides the following statement:

“As part of our ongoing commitment to reduce plastic marine litter, the CPIA and its member companies support the recent decision by the State of Illinois, and we commend Governor Pat Quinn for building on the voluntary efforts of personal care product makers to continue the phase out of microbeads from personal care products. Through the CPIA, Canada’s plastics industry is a signatory to the “[Global Declaration on Solutions for Marine Litter](#),” which has been signed by more than 60 plastics associations in 34 countries. This group of associations leads and supports more than 180 projects focused on researching, preventing or reducing marine debris around the globe. On a national level, CPIA members prevent plastics from becoming marine debris by promoting the proper use, handling, recycling and recovery of these valuable materials. Our members undertake these activities as part of good operational practices and industry initiatives, such as Responsible Care® and Operation Clean Sweep®.”

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The Canadian Plastics Industry Association is the national voice of Canada’s plastics industry, representing the interests of processors, material suppliers, equipment manufacturers and brand owners across the country. Visit www.plastics.ca for more information.