



**AB 888 (Bloom) – Microbeads
OPPOSE
Concurrence, Assembly Floor – File Item # 15**

Despite amendments taken on the bill September 3rd, the listed signatories must continue to oppose AB 888 (Bloom) related to microbeads. As amended, the “plastic microbead” definition in the bill continues to provide uncertainty to manufacturers regarding what alternatives would be acceptable. If passed in its current form, AB 888 will have the perverse effect of stifling innovation and slowing the transition to more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Companies independently made the decision to phase out of non-biodegradable or “traditional” plastic microbeads and they stand firmly by that commitment. We supported bills in other states that codified that phase out. While the ban under AB 888 begins in 2020, some companies, including California companies, plan to have reformulated products on the shelf starting in 2016 with environmentally friendly alternatives. However, the “plastic microbead” definition in AB 888 will halt progress as it puts into question alternatives that are naturally derived or nature identical.

We strongly support the inclusion of language that will refine and clarify this definition and will continue to work in good faith with the proponents and author of AB 888 to achieve a positive outcome for all parties that will not delay the expeditious phase out of traditional microbeads starting next year.

For this reason, we must oppose AB 888 as amended and respectfully request your **NO** vote until this essential definitional change can be made.