



Know your environment.
Protect your health.



April 2, 2019

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

Dear Chair Quirk:

We are writing in support of AB 495, the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act, by Assembly Members Al Muratsuchi and Buffy Wicks. This bill declares that cosmetics containing any one of 20 highly toxic chemicals, such as mercury, lead, and asbestos, are “adulterated” and, as such, cannot be sold in California.

Personal care and cosmetics products sold in California and the United States today are largely unregulated. Federal and state laws do not require regulators to ensure that these products are safe, and manufacturers do not have to share any safety information with government entities. As the federal Food and Drug Administration stated in a March 5, 2019 press release, “Right now, when it comes to cosmetics, companies and individuals who market these products

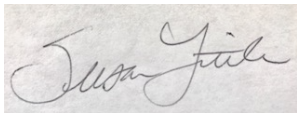
in the U.S. hold the responsibility for the safety and labeling of their products...To be clear, there are currently no legal requirements for any cosmetic manufacturer marketing products to American consumers to test their products for safety.”

Although federal and state laws do not ensure that cosmetics sold to Californians are safe, more than 40 other nations have taken action to protect their citizens from harmful cosmetics. The European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations have set standards for cosmetics sold in their member nations and as such, prohibit or greatly restrict the use of nearly 1,400 chemicals in cosmetics. Canada, Japan, and Australia have also followed suit and have banned or restricted numerous chemicals from being used in cosmetics. Major retailers, even, have recognized the problem and have developed their own lists of chemicals that manufacturers may not include, or must limit, in the retailers’ store brand cosmetic products.

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 endocrine disruptors, and even highly fluorinated substances (PFAS) are common cosmetic ingredients. Unbelievably, the use of these harmful chemicals in cosmetics is legal. We wish to stop this public health threat now.

As you know, men, women, and children of all ages regularly use personal care products and cosmetics. 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 the same protections from harmful cosmetics as those provided to citizens of dozens of other nations. Please bring our state closer to this goal by supporting AB 495 when it comes before your committee. Thank you.



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



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


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



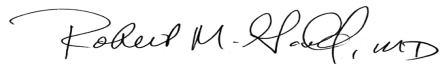
Lauren Cullom
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club CA

Michael Green

Michael Green
Chief Executive Officer
Center for Environmental Health



Richard Holober
Executive Director
Consumer Federation of California



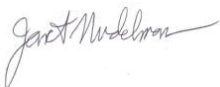
Robert M. Gould, M.D.
President
San Francisco Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility



Jamie McConnell
Director of Programs and Policy
Women's Voices for the Earth
Our Health. Our Future. Toxic Free.

Melissa Chan

Melissa Chan
Environmental Research and Policy Manager
Black Women for Wellness



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

Heidi Sanborn

Heidi Sanborn
Executive Director
National Stewardship Action Council

Doug Kobold

Doug Kobold

Executive Director

California Product Stewardship Council