[Supporting California State Assembly Bill 888 (Bloom) - Prohibiting Selling of Plastic Microbeads]

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 888, authored by Assembly Member Bloom, which prohibits, on and after January 1, 2020, the selling or offering for promotional purposes a personal care product containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product.

WHEREAS, Plastics do not biodegrade as they are not able to be broken down by microorganisms into organic matter; and

WHEREAS, Upon exposure to the elements, plastic photodegrades into smaller pieces of plastic causing land and water pollution, which are then also ingested by filter feeders and other marine animals; and

WHEREAS, These small pieces of plastic absorb persistent toxic organic chemicals over time and can become highly concentrated with poisons that threaten wildlife and humans; and

WHEREAS, These toxic chemicals include dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), and flame retardants, many of which are known to have detrimental effects on human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Microplastics that are five millimeters or less in diameter become bioavailable as soon as they enter the marine environment and are ingested by marine organisms; and

WHEREAS, Upon ingestion, these toxics bioaccumulate in fish, which can then be ingested by humans; and

WHEREAS, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) prohibits any person, in the course of doing business, from knowingly and intentionally exposing any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without giving a specified warning, or from discharging or releasing such a chemical into any source of drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Consumer personal care products such as facial scrubs, soaps, and toothpaste commonly carry thousands of microplastics in the form of plastic microbeads that are flushed down drains or make their way into the environment by other means; and

WHEREAS, Plastic microbeads are not removed by wastewater treatment plants as they are not designed to remove such minute particles and are then released into the environment; and

WHEREAS, Plastic microbeads have been found in surface waters within the United States, as well as in fish, marine mammals, reptiles, mussels, and worms; and

WHEREAS, There are economically feasible alternatives to the use of plastic microbeads in personal care products, such as shells, beans, beeswax, seeds, and sand; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 888, authored by State Assembly Member Richard Bloom, would, beginning January 1, 2020, prohibit any person from selling or offering for promotional purposes in this state a personal care product containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a rinse-off product; and

WHEREAS, AB 888 will exempt from those prohibitions the sale or promotional offer of a product containing less than 1 part per million (ppm) by weight of plastic microbeads; and

WHEREAS, AB 888 will add Chapter 5.9 to Part 3 Division 30 of the Public Resources Code; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco strongly supports Assembly Bill 888 prohibiting the sale of plastic microbeads which create persistent toxic pollution in our marine environments and throughout the food chain; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco is unwavering in its support and protection for our oceans, marine animals, and waterways, and strongly condemns the continued use of plastic microbeads when there are feasible alternatives to these products.



City and County of San Francisco Tails

City Hall 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Resolution

File Number:

150593

Date Passed: June 09, 2015

Resolution supporting California State Assembly Bill 888, authored by Assembly Member Bloom, which prohibits, on and after January 1, 2020, the selling or offering for promotional purposes a personal-care product containing plastic microbeads that are used to exfoliate or cleanse in a

rinse-off product.

June 09, 2015 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee

File No. 150593

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 6/9/2015 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

6/19/15

Date Approved

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo Clerk of the Board

Date