March 28, 2022

The Honorable Bill Quirk, Chair
Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
California State Assembly
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2771 (Friedman): PFAS Free Cosmetics – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Quirk:

The below organizations write to you in support of AB 2771, a bill that will prohibit the sale in California of beauty and personal care products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), highly toxic chemicals.
We appreciate the opportunity to support this important legislation. Our organizations share an increasing concern about the vast use of PFAS chemicals, which build up in our bodies, are extremely resistant to breaking down, and are now a ubiquitous presence in the environment. PFAS are among the most persistent toxic compounds in existence. They are found in the blood of virtually everyone on earth, including newborn babies.

Very low doses of PFAS chemicals in drinking water have been linked to increased risk of cancer, reproductive and immune system harm and liver and thyroid disease. PFAS exposure is also linked to interference with vaccines, and is associated with an elevated risk of breast cancer, increased cholesterol and other serious health concerns.

Despite their well-documented risks, PFAS chemicals are added to many consumer products, including beauty and personal care products. In 2018, Environmental Working Group scientists scoured the Skin Deep database, which contains ingredient lists for more than 85,000 cosmetics, and identified 13 different PFAS compounds used in more than 50 brands. PTFE – a PFAS chemical better known as Teflon – was found in more than 200 different products.

In 2021, Clearya reviewed its database of 50,000 beauty and personal care products and found 1,000 cosmetic products, made by 120 brands, that contained PFAS. That same year, the University of Notre Dame tested 231 cosmetics and found that more than half of the products tested contained PFAS. According to this study, more than three-quarters of waterproof mascara, nearly two-thirds of foundations and liquid lipsticks, and more than half of eye and lip products had high fluorine concentrations, indicating the likely presence of PFAS.

Given the serious impact of PFAS chemicals on public health and the environment, we don’t believe that these chemicals should be in the beauty and personal care products millions of Californians use every day. Eliminating PFAS from cosmetic products will also reduce the amount of PFAS that flushes down the drain after we bathe or is tossed into landfills.

The Legislature has already acted to prohibit the use of PFAS in food packaging, firefighting foam, and children’s products. We would ask that the Legislature also approve AB 2771, which would not allow cosmetics sold in California to contain these toxic chemicals.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Susan Little
Senior Advocate, California Government Affairs
Environmental Working Group (Co-Sponsor)

Janet Nudelman
Sr. Director of Program and Policy
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (Co-Sponsor)
Jenn Engstrom  
State Director  
CALPIRG (Co-Sponsor)

Andria Ventura  
Legislative and Policy Director  
Clean Water Action

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

Doug Kobold  
Executive Director  
California Product Stewardship Council

Avinash Kar  
Senior Attorney & Senior Director  
State Health Policy  
Natural Resources Defense Counsel

David Diaz  
Executive Director  
Active San Gabriel Valley

Erin Woolley  
Policy Advocate  
Sierra Club California

Kathryn Alcantar  
Interim Policy Director  
Center for Environmental Health

Jayla Burton  
Program Manager  
Breast Cancer Action

Arlene Blum, PhD  
Executive Director  
Green Science Policy Institute
**Tony Stefani**
Tony Stefani
President
San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation

**Mark Rossi, PhD**
Executive Director
Clean Production Action

**Lendri Purcell**
President
Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety

**Jaclyn Bowen**
Jaclyn Bowen
Executive Director
Clean Label Project

**Jim Lindburg**
Legislative Consultant
Friends Committee on Legislation of California

**Laura Deehan**
State Director
Environment California

**Nicole Sasaki**
Staff Attorney
San Francisco Baykeeper

**Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit**
Executive Director
Educate. Advocate.

**Onyemma Obiekea**
Policy Analyst
Black Women for Wellness

**Katherine Carvlin**
Executive Director
National Association of Environmental Medicine
Melissa Romero
Senior Legislative Manager
California Environmental Voters

Jordan Wells
Director of Advocacy and Communications
National Stewardship Action Council

Lauren Padawer
Founder
Alaska Glacial Mud Co.

Gia Machlin
President & CEO
EcoPlum

Martin Wolf
Director, Sustainability & Authenticity
Seventh Generation

Annie Tevelin
Owner
SkinOwl, Inc

Suzanne Price
CEO
Sprout San Francisco

Jenefer Palmer LeGassick
Founder
OSEA Malibu

Pamela Miller
Executive Director
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Emily Rogers
Zero Out Toxics Advocate
U.S. PIRG

Samuel Medina
Trustee
San Lorenzo Unified School District
Danielle Jezienicki  
Senior Director, Sustainability  
Grove Collaborative

Shaney Darden  
Founder  
The Keep A Breast Foundation

Polly Marshall  
Executive Director  
Breast Cancer Over Time

Radha Patel  
Chapter Chair of CALPIRG Students at UCLA  
CALPIRG Students

Robert Herrell  
Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of California

Milena Lye  
Founder/Owner  
Just the Goods

Lara Pearson  
Chief Pontificator  
Brand Geek, Law Office of Lara Pearson

Michael J Bronner  
President  
Dr. Bronner's

Richard Kostick  
CEO  
100% PURE

Tabitha Turner  
Chapter Chair  
CALPIRG Students at UC Irvine
Jonas Minton
Senior Water Policy Advisor
Planning and Conservation League

Eraka Donnelly-Greenan
Executive Director
Save our Shores

Janell Schroeder
Regulatory Affairs
Intelligent I-N