



January 12, 2022

Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology
304 15th Avenue SW
P.O. Box 40466
Olympia, WA 98504-0466

Re: Support for the Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act (SB 5703/HB 1853)

Dear Committee Members:

PCC Community Markets (PCC) is writing to express our support for SB 5703—an act relating to the use and disclosure of toxic chemicals in cosmetics.

PCC is the nation's largest community-owned food market, with over 100,000 active members, 15 stores across the Puget Sound region and close to \$400 million in sales. PCC's vision is to inspire and advance the health and well-being of people, their communities and our planet. It is our mission to ensure that good food nourishes the communities we serve while cultivating vibrant local, organic food systems. A critical part of PCC's work is to advocate for the policies that can help further this vision and mission.

In addition to our commitment to organic food, PCC has developed strong standards around the cosmetics and personal care products sold in our stores. We prohibit over 500 different substances that are known or suspected to be toxic to humans or the environment. A bill like SB 5703 not only protects the health of Washington State residents but relieves some of the burden on retailers and consumers of screening products for toxic chemicals. Furthermore, while PCC has implemented strict standards for the products we sell, we firmly believe that safe products should be available to all consumers regardless of where they shop.

It is well known that cosmetics, and personal care products, can be a significant source of toxic chemical exposure for not only consumers, but also all species that come into contact with the water, soil, and air these chemicals may contaminate. One regulatory challenge has been addressing the multitude of different compounds found in various products. PCC supports SB 5703's framework that addresses not just specific compounds, but some classes of chemicals so manufacturers cannot simply replace banned substances with equally harmful compounds. PCC also commends addressing contaminants, like 1,4-dioxane, and requiring additional transparency for other chemicals.

Consumers not only want safer products, but they care about transparency of the ingredients. Over the past several years, consumers have become more aware of toxic chemicals in cosmetics and we need stronger regulations and laws to reflect what consumers are demanding.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our state and making it a safer place for our residents and all that depends on it.

Sincerely,

Rebecca E. Robinson, M.A.

Senior Product Sustainability Specialist

PCC Community Markets

Aimee Simpson, J.D.

Director of Advocacy & Product Sustainability

PCC Community Markets