



The New York Water Environment Association, Inc.
The Water Quality Management Professionals

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2 June 2014

Senator Mark Grisanti
NY State Senate - Legislative Office Building, Room 902
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblyman Robert Sweeney
NY State Assembly, Legislative Office Building, Room 625
Albany, NY 12248

RE: Senate Bill S7018 and Assembly Bill A8744A - Microbeads Free Waters Act; NYWEA's Comments

Dear Senator Grisanti and Assemblyman Sweeney,

The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) is a statewide nonprofit organization of 2,500 water professionals dedicated to the preservation, protection and enhancement of New York's water resources. NYWEA has reviewed proposed Bills S7018 and A8744 and offers the following comments for your consideration.

NYWEA commends each one of you on your leadership and supports both proposed Bills S7018 and A8744A prohibiting the manufacture, distribution and sale of personal cosmetic products containing microbeads. We believe that source control of microbeads that make their way into the wastewater treatment plants and thus potentially discharge into our waterways, is a very important initiative that would contribute to protection of the quality of New York State waters and, by extension, human health and marine life that could be affected by microbeads.

We also would like to recommend one change to the Bill that would make it even more protective for the New York State environment. We propose that the term "microbead" be expanded to/replaced with "**microplastic**" which would be defined "**any plastic size five millimeter or less in all dimensions.**" This definition would ensure protection of our waters from all plastic materials of such small size contained in personal care products and would make New York legislation consistent with the

similar Bill (AB-1699) that has recently passed the Assembly in California Legislature.

If you would like to discuss our comments on the proposed Bill(s) further please contact our Executive Director Patricia Cerro-Reehil at 315-422-7811.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven G. Fangmann".

Steven Fangmann, P.E.
President

cc: Commissioner Joe Martens, NYS DEC
Assistant Commissioner James Tierney, NYS DEC
Joseph DiMura, NYS DEC
Julie Tighe, NYS DEC
NYWEA Board
NYWEA Government Affairs Committee
NYWEA Utility Executives Committee