



The New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

525 Plum Street • Suite 102

Syracuse, New York 13204

(315) 422-7811 • Fax: 422-3851

www.nywea.org • e-mail: pcr@nywea.org

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

BAN 1, 4-DIOXANE IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

A.6295 – Englebright

S. 4389 - Kaminsky

RE: Support for A 6295/S 4389 – Relates to prohibiting household cleansing products and personal cosmetic products that contain 1,4 dioxane.

The New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) would like to express our support for A 6295/S 4389 – Relates to prohibiting household cleansing products and personal cosmetic products that contain 1,4 dioxane. NYWEA is an organization that represents over 2,600 water professionals and is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and enhancement of New York's water resources.

The chemical 1,4 dioxane, has been designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a likely human carcinogen, is now being found in our waterways. As a state that prides ourselves on the quality of our water, we recognize how integrated our water resources are in everything we do and know the important role water plays in protecting public health, the environment and ultimately our economy. Therefore, we take action whenever necessary to protect it. Banning 1,4 dioxane from household cleaning products and personal cosmetic products will be a first step in ensuring we can prevent long term water contamination. Conventional water treatment technology does not remove 1,4 dioxane during the treatment process. Because of this, places like Long Island, that already have experienced 1,4 dioxane contamination, will be paying hundreds of millions of dollars in treatment costs. Taking preventative measures, such as this one, will not only save money, it will allow us to work proactively, rather than reactively, toward water safety.

JUSTIFICATION

According to a report developed by the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment, 1,4 dioxane is not added to products as an ingredient and it does not enhance the effectiveness of a product, but rather it occurs as an unwanted byproduct. It results from a process called ethoxylation, which is used to reduce the risk of skin irritation caused by petroleum-based ingredients. The FDA recommends manufacturers remove the chemical, but unfortunately many do not take this critical step. This legislation would require manufacturers of cosmetics and cleaning products to remove 1,4 dioxane from products to protect public health and the environment.

SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS

- ✓ NYS will prohibit the sale of cosmetics or cleaning products containing 1,4 dioxane (e.g. soaps, shampoos, detergents, lotions, cleaning agents), effective 12/31/21
- ✓ Allows manufacturers to apply to the Department for a one-year waiver

There are many threats facing our waterways, from emerging contaminants to algae blooms, we must do everything in our power to protect our natural ecosystems. The state legislature has already determined that every New Yorker has an unalienable right to clean air, water, and a healthful environment. By passing A 6295/S 4389, we will be one step closer to supporting this promise.