



JESSIE RODRIGUEZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 21ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Rodriguez Supports Legislation to Ban Microbeads

MADISON, Wis – In a continued effort to maintain the integrity and cleanliness of the waterways throughout Wisconsin, State Representative Jessie Rodriguez (R-Franklin) voted to support legislation that will ban manufacturing and sale of products with microbeads in Wisconsin.

“Microbeads are detrimental to the purity and sustainability of the Great Lakes,” said Rodriguez. “With Oak Creek and South Milwaukee located on the shores of Lake Michigan it is important that we make sure the lake is free of pollution for residents in my district.”

Microbeads, often found in lotion, soap and toothpaste, are non-biodegradable plastic particles that are used in various beauty products. Sewer treatment plants are unable to filter microbeads and the plastic particles are transferred from home products to lakes after use.

The pollution caused by microbeads is harmful to fish and aquatic plant life. Fish sometimes eat the plastic toxins which can be then passed on to humans through consumption. Recent studies have found the harmful pollutants making their way into the Great Lakes.

Microbeads have been a concern for both houses of the state legislature. The Senate passed the legislation in March, and the bill now awaits Governor Walker’s signature.

“Evidence has shown there are far-safer and effective alternatives to microbeads,” said Rodriguez. “This type of common-sense legislation will keep our treasured lakes and rivers clean and our citizens safe from the harmful pollution caused by microbeads.

The ban to manufacture products with microbeads will go into effect in 2017 with the sale ban starting in 2018. However, many manufacturers have already started removing microbeads from their products after Illinois passed a ban in 2014. Illinois was the first state to ban microbeads.

“I’m pleased to see bipartisan collaboration on legislation that will be beneficial for the environment and the citizens of Wisconsin for years to come,” concluded Rodriguez.

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