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April 8, 2015

Rep. William Botzow, Chair  
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, VT 05633

CC: Rep. Michael Marcotte, Vice Chair  
Rep. Warren F. Kitzmiller, Ranking Member  
Rep. Fred Baser  
Rep. Stephen Carr  
Rep. Maureen Dakin  
Rep. Jean O'Sullivan  
Rep. Corey Parent  
Rep. Heidi E. Scheuermann  
Rep. Laura Sibia  
Rep. Valerie A. Stuart

RE: House Bill 133: An act relating to supporting the green manufacture in Vermont of microbead alternatives.

Dear Representative Botzow:

On behalf of Seventh Generation, I thank the Committee for this opportunity to testify **in support of H.133**, an act relating to supporting the green manufacture in Vermont of microbead alternatives.

Seventh Generation is the nation's leading brand of household and personal care products designed to help protect human health and the environment. Established in 1988, the Burlington, Vermont based company employs over 130 people, and remains an independent, privately-held company distributing products to natural food stores, supermarkets, mass merchants, and online retailers across the United States and Canada.

Among the products manufactured and sold by Seventh Generation are body and hand soaps, laundry detergents and dish detergents, baby diapers, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products.

**H.133 amends Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 280bb to give preference in its lending decisions to Vermont-based manufacturers that are adversely impacted by the State's regulation or a State ban of manufactured products. The bill directs the Vermont Economic Development Authority to assist these businesses as they transition from the manufacture of the regulated or banned products to the design and manufacture of environmentally sound substitutes.**



Seventh Generation supports this bill because it accelerates the transition of manufacturing in Vermont from the paradigm of using low-cost, but often harmful substances to a paradigm balancing cost with the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment.

Although H.133 specifically references substitutes for microbeads in its Statement of Purpose, direction to the Vermont Economic Development Authority is less specific. It is the hope of Seventh Generation that this reflects the intent of the bill's Sponsors, and that the Authority will assist companies impacted by Act 188 and similar legislation whose intent is to protect the health of Vermont's citizens and our environment.

Thank you for your attention to, and consideration of, these comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin H. Wolf". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin H. Wolf  
Director, Sustainability & Authenticity