



May 3, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mary Sattler Peltola
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lisa McClain
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Merkley, Senator Collins, Representative McClain, and Representative Peltola:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we applaud the introduction of the *Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPEs) Act* (S.1350/H.R.2964). The WIPPEs Act takes a straightforward and reasonable approach to addressing the pervasive, but ultimately preventable pollution problem stemming from the improper disposal of non-flushable wipes in the nation’s wastewater systems. We urge that Congress act swiftly to pass the WIPPEs Act.

The WIPPEs Act provides a common sense “Do Not Flush” labeling requirement for non-flushable wipes packaging and establishes a simple source management solution through consistent on-package consumer education. The wipes industry, environmental advocates, and the clean water sector support the WIPPEs Act. We believe the legislation will advance our mutually shared interest to protect public infrastructure and the environment by promoting responsible disposal habits.

Due to the lack of consistent and clear disposal packaging instructions, consumers often unwittingly flush these wipes down the toilet. Because these types of wipes are not designed to be flushed, they can clog and damage pipes, pumps, and treatment equipment, resulting in increased operation and maintenance costs for clean water utilities. Additionally, the flushing of these wipes can cause potential environmental harms, such as sewer overflow events, and some may contribute microplastic and microfiber pollution to our water resources.

The WIPPEs Act establishes uniformity in labeling requirements for these non-flushable wipes distributed across the country. In the absence of a national “Do Not Flush” labeling standard for non-flushable wipes, some states are moving ahead to implement their own labeling standards. As a result, wipes manufacturers could potentially have to make state-specific product packaging and consumers would see inconsistent labeling from state-to-state. A national labeling requirement harmonizing existing state labeling laws would eliminate this potentially unnecessary impact on product cost and reduce confusion for the consumer.

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Page 2 of 2

Thank you for your leadership to address and develop common-sense and bipartisan solutions to the unique problems related to the flushing of non-flushable wipes.

Sincerely,

Association of Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
Consumer Healthcare Products Association
Kimberly-Clark
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Stewardship Action Council
Procter & Gamble
Water Environment Federation