



March 04, 2020

The Honorable John Lesch  
House Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Division  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: House File 3181 (Claflin)- OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Lesch and Committee Members:

The Household & Commercial Products Association appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in opposition of HF 3181 (Claflin) concerning nonwoven disposable products.

The Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA) is the premier trade association representing the interests of companies engaged in the manufacture, formulation, distribution and sale of more than \$180 billion annually in the U.S. of familiar consumer products that help household and institutional customers create cleaner and healthier environments. Our industry manufactures products that clean and disinfect homes, restaurants, hospitals, and more. Nonwoven products that complete these tasks have become more popular due to their convenience and performance.

HF 3181 mandates labeling of nonwoven disposable products if the products are advertised as flushable or septic safe. HCPA understands the importance of consumer education and transparency between manufacturers and consumers. HCPA has long advocated for the proper use and disposal of non-woven household products, including flushable and non-flushable household wipes used for cleaning, disinfecting and personal hygiene.

Without a national standard in place, HF 3181 would create a labeling standard for products in Minnesota that does not exist in other states. We have concerns over how this bill could impact interstate commerce, with similar legislative proposals in states like Washington, we worry about creating a patchwork of different labeling requirements for non-woven disposable products. Furthermore, we do not support the usage of the FTC Docket C-4556 as a measurable regulatory standard. This docket is an enforcement action against one company for mislabeling products and it does not establish a flushability test.

It is important to note the legislation's impact on covered products that are also registered under the U.S. EPA Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and to understand the label approval processes at the state and federal level for these products. Excessive warnings or labels can prevent a product label from being approved by the appropriate federal and state agencies. HCPA supports sensible effective dates to be based on a manufacture "on or after" date of at least 2 years in the future, so product labels can be changed and approved through the proper channels needed for them to go to market. We ask that the effective date in the legislation be changed to July 1, 2023 for FIFRA-registered products.

We would like to remind the committee that the products targeted in this legislation help maintain sanitary conditions in households across Minnesota and we urge consumers to continue to dispose of the products as directed by the product label instructions.

For these reasons, we are respectfully opposed to HF 3181 as written. If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allyson Azar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Allyson" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Azar".

Allyson Azar, HCPA  
Director, State Government Relations and Public Policy