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3 Title: Designating Microplastics as a Potent Water Pollutant

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5 Introduced by: Nabiha Hashmi for the Medical Student Section

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7 Original Authors: Peter Dimitrion and Ashton Lewandowski

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9 Referred To: Reference Committee D

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11 House Action:

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14 Whereas, it is estimated that up to 10,000 metric tons of plastic enter the Great Lakes each
15 year, and

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17 Whereas, primary microplastics are products such as exfoliating microbeads which are
18 actively produced to be smaller than five mm, and

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20 Whereas, secondary microplastics are produced through the erosion of larger particles via
21 wind, water, and UV radiation, and

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23 Whereas, community water treatment systems use coagulation/flocculation, sedimentation,
24 filtration, and disinfection to treat drinking water, and

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26 Whereas, one study shows that drinking water treatment plants can remove up to 80
27 percent of microplastics between raw and treated water, and

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29 Whereas, several studies have shown the presence of microplastics in drinking water from
30 bottled and tap sources, and

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32 Whereas, the Safe Drinking Water Act defines a "contaminant" as "any physical, chemical,
33 biological or radiological substance or matter in water," and

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35 Whereas, the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations lists discharge from plastic
36 factories as contaminants, and

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38 Whereas, the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations does not list plastic itself as a
39 contaminant; therefore be it

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41 RESOLVED: That MSMS support microplastic-free standards at the state level for all
42 drinking water sources; and be it further

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44 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask
45 our AMA to advocate for the designation of microplastics as a water contaminant and establish
46 standards and protocols for safe levels in drinking water.

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49 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000 for new MSMS and AMA policy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Plastic Microbeads in the Great Lakes

MSMS supports local, state, and federal laws banning the sale and manufacture of personal care products containing plastic microbeads.

Air and Water Pollution

Reasonable and scientific study should be directed toward the sensible control of the major problems of air and water pollution, whether it is the dusts and wastes of industry, the products of combustion of gasoline or oil (automobiles), the combustion products of home heating and burning equipment, or of smoking tobacco.

Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health

MSMS endorses the Consensus Statement of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health.

Timely and Transparent Data Sharing for Drinking Water Testing

MSMS supports the following:

1. Creation and availability of a real-time alert system for all water test results, which exceed federal, state, or local standards within a person's designated zip code(s), to which the public could subscribe; and
2. Creation and implementation of a process in which all collected test results related to the quality of water that are excluded from final data analysis are annotated and explained.

Effects of Energy Pipelines and Fossil Fuel Waste on the Great Lakes

MSMS supports regulation of oil/oil byproducts that risk contamination of the Great Lakes. MSMS supports rigorous maintenance and regulation of current oil/oil byproduct and natural gas pipelines, as well as the shutdown of pipelines that do not meet regulatory standards or pose imminent risk of contaminating the Great Lakes.

MSMS opposes the disposal of waste that is a byproduct of fossil fuel transport and/or usage into our water systems.

Relevant AMA Policy:

Banning Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products H-135.929

Our AMA supports local, state, and federal laws banning the sale and manufacture of personal care products containing plastic microbeads.

Contamination of Drinking Water by Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products D-135.993

Our AMA supports the EPA and other federal agencies in engaging relevant stakeholders, which may include, but is not limited to the AMA, pharmaceutical companies, pharmaceutical retailers, state and specialty societies, and public health organizations in the development of guidelines for physicians and the public for the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals and personal care products to prevent contamination of drinking water systems.

Pollution Control and Environmental Health H-135.996

Our AMA supports (1) efforts to alert the American people to health hazards of environmental pollution and the need for research and control measures in this area; and (2) its present activities in pollution control and improvement of environmental health.

Clean Air H-135.979

Our AMA supports cooperative efforts with the Administration, Congress, national, state and local medical societies, and other organizations to achieve a comprehensive national policy and program to address the adverse health effects from environmental pollution factors, including air and water pollution, toxic substances, the "greenhouse effect," stratospheric ozone depletion and other contaminants.

Sources:

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2. Beaulieu, Nina Faure, and Sharon Mehta. "A Brief Introduction to Microplastics." *Exploring Our Oceans*, 26 Feb. 2018, moocs.southampton.ac.uk/oceans/2017/11/18/brief-introduction-microplastics/.
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4. Novotna, Katerina, et al. "Microplastics in Drinking Water Treatment - Current Knowledge and Research Needs." *Science of The Total Environment*, Elsevier, 28 Feb. 2019, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004896971930943X.
5. "Microplastics in Drinking-Water." World Health Organization, World Health Organization, 29 Aug. 2019, www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/microplastics-in-drinking-water/en/.
6. "Definition of - Contaminant." EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, 29 Sept. 2016, www.epa.gov/ccl/definition-contaminant.
7. "National Primary Drinking Water Regulations." EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, 18 Dec. 2019, www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations#Inorganic.