



March 7, 2019

Senator Spearman
Chair, Senate Commerce and Labor Committee
Nevada State Capitol

RE: Support for SB 197 (Scheible) – An Act concerning animal tested cosmetics

Dear Senator Spearman and Committee,

On behalf of Cruelty Free International, I write in support of SB 197 which will be heard in your committee on March 13. SB 197 would make it unlawful for any cosmetic manufacturer to sell any cosmetic in the state if the cosmetic was developed or manufactured using animal testing that was performed after January 1, 2020.

For more than 50 years, animals have been used in painful tests to assess the safety of chemicals used in cosmetic products. Today, modern non-animal approaches that are cheaper, faster, and better at predicting adverse human reactions are widely available and more such methods are becoming available each year. Not only do companies have these modern tests at their disposal they also have thousands of existing cosmetic ingredients with histories of safe use and existing safety data that can be utilized without further testing.

In 2013, the United States' largest trading partner, the European Union, which accounts for nearly half of the global cosmetics market, ended the importation and sale of cosmetics that have been tested on animals. Today, more than 30 countries (including the EU) have taken steps to eliminate animal testing for cosmetics; several others, including Canada and Brazil, have legislation pending. In the 115th Congress, HR 2790, the Humane Cosmetics Act, would have ended the sale of animal tested cosmetics across the US. The bill garnered an astonishing 186 cosponsors, including three quarters of the Nevada House delegation. The bill also enjoyed the support of over 150 cosmetic companies of all sizes. Unfortunately, the bill has been slow to advance. Inaction at the federal level provides an opportunity for states to lead the way.

Under SB 197, only NEW animal testing is affected. Animal testing that took place prior to enactment of the law would not be considered a breach of the cruelty-free requirement. The bill would also not impede companies' ability to meet federal, state, or foreign requirements. California passed a similar law in 2018 that was supported by dozens of cosmetic companies and industry associations, including the Personal Care Products Council, California Retailers Association, and the California Manufacturers and Technology Association. It takes effect in 2020.

SB 197 will give Nevada consumers the assurance they want that the cosmetics they are buying were not produced at the expense of animal suffering. I respectfully request your Aye vote on SB 197.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Engebretson", written in a cursive style.

Monica Engebretson, North American Campaign Manager