



# SIERRA CLUB

## ATLANTIC CHAPTER

August 19, 2019

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
Capitol Building  
Albany, N.Y. 12224

**RE: A.164-B (Rosenthal)/S.2387-B (Persaud)**

Dear Governor Cuomo,

The Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter urges you to sign into law A.164-B/S.2387-B, an act to amend the general business law, in relation to menstrual product labeling. A.164-B/S.2387-B would provide New Yorkers with information on what ingredients are in menstrual care products, including but not limited to tampons, pads, and menstrual cups. The bill would require this information be displayed on the package or box containing menstrual products sold in New York State.

Feminine care products are widely used by women in the United States and constitute a \$3 billion dollar industry. The most common and popular feminine care products are tampons and menstrual pads, used by 70-85 percent of women. From current product testing, many hazardous ingredients have been found to be present in these products, and yet many women are unaware of the harmful chemicals they may be exposing themselves to.

In their report *Chem Fatale*, Women's Voices for the Earth outlines some of the most hazardous ingredients found in menstrual products. These include dioxins, furans, pesticide residues, and unknown fragrance chemicals, with exposure concerns including cancer, reproductive harm, and hormone disruption.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the chemicals used in feminine care products are virtually unregulated in the United States. Neither the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) nor the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the direct authority to monitor or require safety testing for feminine care products. A.164-B/S.2387-B would at least

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<sup>1</sup> <https://womensvoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Chem-Fatale-Report.pdf>

give New Yorkers the information about what is in their menstrual products and allow consumers the ability to choose which products they would like to purchase.

Phasing out harmful and unnecessary chemicals in consumer products will have a lasting effect on the health of New Yorkers and the environment. Sierra Club is devoted to protecting public health and the environment by decreasing exposure to hazardous substances through reducing toxic chemicals in consumer products and in educating consumers about the potential risks of hazardous substances such as endocrine disruptors, formaldehyde, lead, mercury, and other persistent toxins. This legislation aligns with this goal and is why we strongly urge you to sign A.164-B/S.2387-B into law.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Caitlin P. Ferrante". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caitlin P. Ferrante  
Conservation & Development Program Manager  
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter