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March 16, 2023

Dear (MPP Name)

### **Support for Washing Machine Filter Bill**

We are writing to urge your support for a Private Member's Bill on protecting water from microfiber/plastic pollution by requiring filters on clothes washing machines. MPP Jessica Bell, University-Rosedale, is introducing the Bill on March 21, 2023.

The Georgian Bay Association (GBA) is an umbrella organization for 18 community associations along the east and north shores of Georgian Bay, representing approximately 3,000 families. We have been advocating on behalf of our members for over 100 years (since 1916) and estimate that we reach and influence around 34,000 residents of the Georgian Bay. Our mandate is to work with our water-based communities and other stakeholders to ensure the careful stewardship of the greater Georgian Bay environment.

Why are we concerned? Microfibers, which are less than 5 mm in size, are the most prevalent type of microplastic and other anthropogenic particle polluting the environment, including our waterways. Microfibers are contaminating the Great Lakes and studies have found them in our drinking water and in various foods. Laboratory studies have shown that microfibers can often contain harmful chemicals, some of which are toxic, which can cause negative impacts on animals, including species of fish, birds and more.

Hundreds of thousands of microfibers are released during every wash cycle of clothes, and an estimated 4.8 million tonnes of synthetic microfibers have entered water bodies and terrestrial environments since 1950.

Washing machine filters have been proven to capture up to 89% of these microfibers, and further research has shown this to have a significant impact in lowering the microfiber emissions from wastewater treatment plants into our waterways.

Ontario could take the lead in North America by joining France, who has enacted washing machine filter legislation, to stop this major source of microfiber/plastic pollution of our fresh water.

Attached is a brief outlining the issue, the research, and the mitigating solution.

Please help move this Bill forward when it is tabled on March 22.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rupert Kindersley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Rupert Kindersley**  
**Executive Director**