

Nicholas Porto
Scarborough

Dear Committee On Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business,

I am writing to strongly urge you to support LD1551 to end the sale of animal tested cosmetics in Maine. For decades popular opinion is shifting towards a mindset of compassion. As our political leaders we look to you to draft policy that lends a voice to the voiceless.

Chief among those without a voice to advocate for themselves are animals. I write to you today to express my concern that in Maine we continue to sell cosmetics tested on animals, even though such procedures are both cruel and unnecessary. By allowing these products to be sold in our state we are effectively supporting the animal testing of cosmetics and continuing to fund a practice that brings immense suffering and pain to innocent beings.

The testing of products on animals is completely unnecessary because viable alternatives are available. Instead of measuring how long it takes a chemical to burn the cornea of a rabbit's eye, manufacturers can now drop that chemical onto cornea-like 3D tissue structures produced from human cells. Likewise, human skin cultures can be grown and purchased for skin irritation testing.

Modern non-animal methods are available for the most cosmetic safety issues, and have been shown to better predict human responses in the real-world than the animal tests they replace.

And while I look to a future that one day bans all forms of testing of products, drugs, and medicines on animals, supporting LD1551 to end the sale of animal tested cosmetics in Maine is an important first step. Supporting this legislation will ensure that Maine continues to be a leader in positive global change.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Porto
Board President
Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland