

June 20, 2018

Senator Cathleen Galgiani
California State Capitol
1315 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support from Born Free USA on Senate Bill 1249

Dear Senator Galgiani,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support of California Senate Bill 1249. My name is Prashant K. Khetan, Esq., and I am the CEO and General Counsel of Born Free USA, a non-profit organization that seeks to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, rescue individual animals in need, and protect wildlife in their natural habitats – by keeping wildlife in the wild and encouraging compassionate conservation globally. Born Free is aware of the cruelty behind testing on animals, including for cosmetics, as our Primate Sanctuary has many primates rescued from research facilities.

On behalf of Born Free and its California supporters, we support the Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act, which would make it unlawful for a manufacturer to knowingly import for profit, sell at retail, or offer for sale any cosmetic, if the final product or any component thereof was tested on any animals for any purpose. In the United States, there are no laws requiring that cosmetic products be tested on animals for product safety. Indeed, animal testing on cosmetic products is unnecessary and contributes only to appearances. Rather, there are tests that can better predict human reactions, and produce these results at a cheaper and faster rate. In addition, companies can utilize countless other ingredients for which safety data already is available. Many of these methods are approved by OECD as official test guidelines.

In contrast, testing on animals is barbaric. Animals held in such captivity are often forced to live under inhumane and unnatural conditions, and develop medical and psychological problems that last a lifetime. And when the animal is no longer suited for research, questionable approaches are used to determine the fate of that animal. All of this to look a certain way simply doesn't pass the smell test.

For all of these reasons, as well as seeing firsthand the impact of testing on animals, Born Free supports the passage of Senate Bill 1249, the Cruelty-Free Cosmetics Act. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Prashant K. Khetan
Chief Executive Officer & General Counsel