

TAMMY BALDWIN
WISCONSIN

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4906

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

November 7, 2017

Mr. Paul Kent
Attorney
Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 900
P.O. Box 1784
Madison, Wisconsin 53701



Dear Mr. Kent:

Thank you for contacting me to share your thoughts regarding the regulation of flushable personal wipes. I appreciate you taking the time to write me on this issue.

On December 6, 2016, the Washington D.C. city council voted to require that pre-moistened personal wipes meet certain standards in order to be labeled “flushable.” This municipal law, which is currently set to take effect on January 1, 2018, would require wipes not meeting the standards to carry a “Do Not Flush” label on their package in order to be sold in Washington D.C.

The Washington D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, which has expressed concerns over the wipes’ potential to cause damage to Washington D.C.’s sewer infrastructure, receives its funding from the federal government. During the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 appropriations process in the House of Representatives, some advocated for including a measure that would prohibit Washington D.C. from implementing the flushable wipes labeling law. This provision was ultimately not included in the final House FY 2018 appropriations bill.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, which has authority to determine funding for Washington D.C.’s wastewater treatment system, has not yet passed its FY 2018 appropriations bill. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will keep your concerns about regulating flushable wipes in mind should the topic arise in the FY 2018 appropriations process.

Once again, thank you for contacting my office. It is important for me to hear from the people of Wisconsin on the issues, thoughts and concerns that matter most to you. If I can be of further assistance, please visit my website at <http://www.baldwin.senate.gov> for information on how to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator