



SUPPORT A LEGISLATIVE BAN ON MANUFACTURE OR DELIVERY OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING SUNSCREEN CHEMICALS OXYBENZONE AND OCTINOXATE FOR INTRODUCTION INTO U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMERCE

GOAL:

We are collectively uniting to support legislation that bans the sale of sunscreen personal-care products containing OXYBENZONE and OCTINOXATE. The legislation would prohibit manufacture or delivery products containing sunscreen chemicals commonly known as OXYBENZONE and OCTINOXATE for introduction into U.S. Virgin Island's commerce.

HISTORY:

For 15 years, OXYBENZONE and OCTINOXATE are considered by EPA and NOAA as “emerging environmental contaminants of concern.” In October 2015, a scientific publication in Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology showed the toxicology and pollution of OXYBENZONE and related threat to coral reefs in Florida, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since October 2015, five other scientific papers have been published supporting the apprehension that OXYBENZONE and OCTINOXATE (1) pollute the environment, (2) accumulate and travel through the ecological foodweb, (3) damage aquatic and marine natural resource environments, (4) are significant endocrine disruptors, and (5) give rise to the phenomenon, “Coral Reef Zombies” – a ecological-wide reproductive effect resulting from the endocrine disrupting toxicities bestowed by these two chemicals.

SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT:

The science and environmental impact of these two chemicals is quickly being recognized and its importance is spreading in the broader social consciousness. In October 2015, *Time Magazine* claimed that pollution research on OXYBENZONE to be one of the “12 Things You Need to Know” and created [an infographic](#). Since then, a large number of citizen groups across the U.S. have rallied together to educate the general public about this easily mitigated environmental and human-health threat, and are calling on legislators to ban the chemicals (e.g., [hawaiiioceanambassadors.com](#)).

We call upon your leadership to protect our beaches and coral reefs within the U.S. Virgin Islands to mitigate this pollution by sponsoring legislation to effect this ban.

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[from: [protect reefs](#)]