

Earth Ministry and Washington Interfaith Power and Light

Public Hearing Testimony:

My name is Jessica Zimmerle, and I represent members of Earth Ministry and Washington Interfaith Power & Light. We're a statewide nonprofit that engages people of faith on environmental issues. And I spend a lot of my time teaching, and I've spent the last four years in conversation with members of the faith community about chemical safety standards. Our world is so divided and this issue is one of the few that really resonates with people from different perspectives. Usually I show up to talk about something else, and I get asked for an update on what we're doing about toxic chemicals.

So, no matter what faith tradition, or any, people subscribe to, we all believe that we have a moral obligation to protect present and future generations from toxic contaminations in our home, our food, the products we use every day, and we're grateful for the Children's Safe Product Act. We think of it as a blessing and we're grateful that Washington's leadership is pushing us forward and championing chemical safety. All faith traditions call us to care for each other, to be good stewards of our planet, and strive for justice, and we ask that you continue to implement these values through wise revision of the Children's Safe Product Act.

So, we thank you for the additional 21 chemicals to the list of Chemicals of High Concern. We are concerned, as has been stated, about the omission of the hormone disrupting phthalates DIPP, DEMP, and DIOP, as well as the nonstick ... the stain resistant chemicals PFOA and those that break down, as well, to form PFOA. And we agree there's no reason to remove D4 as a known endocrine disruptor that has already been reported for seven years.

And what I've brought for you today, just in the past week, I've been out with our members and we've collected over fifty comment cards from people of faith asking for you to take action on these chemicals. So, these folks aren't scientists or policy experts or lobbyists. They're just average people doing the best they can to protect their families. And I wanted to share a few with you, so...

Jillian states the right to know what she's putting in her body. Paola shares she's seen these harmful chemicals deteriorating the health of her community. Patty references Pope Francis' call to protect God's Earth and all its inhabitants. Matthew raises concern for the lines of all who come after him. Katrina says she values clean air, clean water, and clean food for herself, future generations, and all of life. Kate really wants to be a mom; is concerned for her future family. Reverend Cornwell calls this out as a social justice issue. Keith wants his grandson to grow up safe. Brad brings up our values for freedom, peace, and prosperity. And Elizabeth says that faith demands we protect the gift of Earth.

So, each of these cards is a concerned constituent whose story will be impacted by this rule. And our faith compels us to request high standards of reporting to include these dangerous phthalates, PFOA-related chemicals, and D4 in the revision of this Act. And thank you for protecting our loved ones and all of God's children.