



February 27, 2020

Washington State Department of Ecology  
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program  
C/O Cheryl Niemi  
Re: Safer Products for Washington (RCW 70.365)

Dear Cheryl and Department of Ecology Staff,

Thank you for your good work developing the draft list of priority consumer products for future regulation under the Safer Products for Washington law. We support the product areas you have selected, especially PFAS in carpets on which children are in close contact. With the wellbeing of the vulnerable in mind, we ask that you consider inclusion of the addition product areas listed below.

Earth Ministry is a statewide organization that supports religious communities transforming faith into action for the wellbeing of communities and the environment. Our network of individuals and congregations share core values of stewardship, responsibility, and justice for all of God's creation. A top concern for our members is the prevalence of toxic chemicals in our homes and contamination of drinking water and the environment. We have a moral obligation to phase out these poisons.

Implementing the Safer Products for Washington law is an opportunity to seriously improve the health of families and ecosystems. Please take bold action and add the following products:

- Furniture upholstery and other textiles (drapes, tablecloths), floor treatments (waxes, polishes) and apparel containing PFAS;
- Insulation containing organohalogen flame retardants;
- Personal care products, cleaning products, and food contact materials containing phthalates;
- Apparel and paint containing industrial phenolic compounds; and,
- Paints containing PCBs.

Attached are over 150 personalized comments from people of faith across the state. The religious community is doing the best we can to use safe products in our homes and houses of worship, yet individual actions only go so far. The Department of Ecology has an important opportunity to protect residents across Washington by banning the most hazardous classes of toxic chemicals and/or requiring disclosure of their use. Please take strong action to do so for a broad selection of product areas.

Thank you for your leadership, and for putting us on a path to cleaner water and healthier communities.

Yours,

LeeAnne Beres  
Executive Director