

Mark Ashley

Toxic chemicals intentionally put in consumer products, including PFAS, flame retardants, PCBs, phenolic compounds, like BPA, and phthalates, are a major source of exposures for both people and orcas. I was pleased to see the Pollution Prevention for our Future Act pass the legislature last year and appreciate having the opportunity to comment on the draft priority product list.

The draft priority product list identifies many consumer products that expose humans and orcas to the five toxic chemicals. Thank you for considering the impacts of these consumer products to both the Southern Resident orcas and disproportionately impacted communities. I support the inclusion of all the consumer products on the draft list.

But I believe the proposed list doesn't represent enough of the major sources for toxic exposure. If only the currently proposed products are considered, toxic exposures will still cause significant harm to our communities and environment. I encourage Ecology to consider a more comprehensive list of consumer products with toxic chemicals, not just the selected few.

Southern Resident orcas are at the brink of extinction and can't wait any longer for regulations to control toxic chemicals. If we hope to recover their population, orcas need protections now.