

Michelle Stepp

A major source of exposures for both people and orcas is through toxic chemicals intentionally put in consumer products, including PFAS, flame retardants, PCBs, phenolic compounds, like BPA, and phthalates. I was pleased to see the Pollution Prevention for our Future Act pass the legislature last year and am excited to have 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.

However, I encourage Ecology to consider a more comprehensive list of consumer products with toxic chemicals, not just the selected few. I believe the proposed list does not 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.

Southern Resident orcas are at the brink of extinction and cannot wait any longer for regulations to control toxic chemicals. Orcas need protections now if we hope to recover their population.