

# Louise Morehead

Dear WA Department of Ecology,

Thank you for your work to protect communities and the environment from toxic PFAS chemicals through many different mechanisms, including the PFAS Chemical Action Plan, Safer Products for WA implementation, and now the PFAS Food Packaging Alternatives Assessments.

As a person of faith, it is important to me that we do all we can to protect communities from toxic contamination and its negative health effects, as well as tread lightly on our sacred earth.

Thanks to knowledge that there are chemicals like PFAS in food wrappings and in the environment, makes me pull away from the food industry and anything packaged. They play a big part in making our modern food industry producers of things to avoid.

Knowing that the only/biggest producer of such chemicals is in a heavily populated BIPOC area only confirms to me that systemic racism is inherent and ingrained in our national system of values. We've got work to do to set things right.

BTW, the producers of PFAS and people dragging their feet on getting rid of such poisonous chemicals in our industries and food systems also have grandchildren who will suffer from this in the future. Let's get a clue: pay attention! And if it's not time to vote at the poles, speak up, take action, and at least vote with our pocketbooks. Mine is closed where PFAS are to be founds.

Louise Morehead, Seattle, WA

With the upcoming second alternatives assessment for PFAS in food packaging, time is of the essence. It has already been three years since we passed the PFAS food packaging legislation in 2018. While we wait for this bill to be implemented, retailers across the country continue to voluntarily stop using food packaging with PFAS, demonstrating that alternatives are widely available. Additionally, cities like Seattle that require entirely compostable food packaging, which does not contain PFAS, also confirm that these products exist and are widely used.

Please consider the abundant options and widespread circulation of various PFAS-free food packaging being used in Seattle and voluntarily by many retailers elsewhere as evidence that there are suitable and safe alternatives available.

I also ask that you accelerate the timeline for the alternatives assessment process because of serious environmental justice concerns. The Daikin America plant in Decatur, Alabama, where PFAS for food packaging is produced, has a legacy of significant PFAS contamination of land and drinking water. People of color comprise 78% of the exposed community living within three miles of the plant. We have a moral responsibility to protect communities both in Washington and where PFAS is produced outside of the state. Removing PFAS from all food packaging as soon as possible is imperative for the health of communities everywhere.

I appreciate that Washington is a leader in toxic chemical reform. Please continue to set a high

standard with swifter implementation of the second PFAS Food Packaging Alternatives Assessment.

Sincerely,  
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