

# Frances Pavlas Bose

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 practicing Roman Catholic and follower of Pope Francis and his encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, doing everything we can to protect "Our Common Home, the Earth" is necessary and absolutely necessary. Further, my faith is extremely important to me. With Pope Francis' message, the Catholic Church is starting to fulfill the practices of our faith!! In that regard, we ALL need to do everything to protect communities from toxic contamination and its negative health effects, as well as tread lightly on our sacred earth.

This is a good first step, but much more needs to be done to STOP the use of all plastic in our food stream. We must stop the use of plastic and clean up our planet, particularly our oceans.

The best thing should be the OUTLAWING of the manufacture and use of all plastic starting with food packaging.

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,  
Ms Frances Pavlas Bose

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