



January 28, 2022

Dear Washington Department of Ecology,

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light (WAIP) represents 300+ congregations and spiritual communities across our state. Our community of nearly 6,000 Washingtonians cares deeply about environmental justice and public health as a moral issue and for years have been advocating for stronger protections against toxic PFAS chemicals.

The faith community is deeply grateful for Ecology's draft report for the first round of the Safer Products for Washington program. Earth Ministry/WAIP and 150+ people of faith have submitted comments to enthusiastically support all the report's proposed restrictions on toxic chemicals in the chosen priority products. Our faith traditions teach us to protect the most vulnerable, which includes reminding decision makers that regular people (who don't have degrees in toxicology or chemistry) care deeply about toxic chemicals because it is a moral issue. You know that urgent action is needed when everyday folks are talking about specific classes of chemicals at temple or in church. Thanks for proposing these much-needed restrictions on organohalogen and organophosphate flame retardants, PCBs, PFAS, bisphenols, alkylphenol ethoxylates, and phthalates.

Please maintain these recommended restrictions in the upcoming Safer Products first round final report. Washington's faith communities overwhelmingly want to see swift action taken in the first round of Safer Products and are hopeful given Ecology's strong draft report.

Thank you again for your good work to protect Washingtonians from toxic chemicals.

Sincerely,

Sr. Jessica Zimmerle
Program & Outreach Director
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light