



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-5501
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

January 27, 2022

Cheryl Niemi
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
c/o SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Support for Draft Report on Safer Products for Washington Regulatory Determinations

Dear Ms. Niemi:

Thank you for the opportunity to support Washington State Departments of Ecology's (Ecology) draft regulatory determinations for the Safer Products for Washington program. We appreciate the work that Ecology is undertaking to address several classes of pervasive and persistent chemicals found in common products, in support of human and environmental health.

King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) serves about 1.8 million people within a 424 square mile service area including most urban areas of King County and parts of Snohomish and Pierce Counties. In 2020, our three regional treatment plants and two smaller treatment plants treated a combined daily average of 178 million gallons of wastewater, and together produced 117,000 wet tons of biosolids that were land applied to forests and farms in Washington as a beneficial soil amendment.

WTD supports all recommendations in the draft regulatory determinations supporting source control of priority chemicals. We especially support recommendations to restrict priority chemicals from priority products where safer alternatives are feasible.

As one of the largest wastewater treatment utilities in the state, we support regulations and programs that result in fewer chemicals in the wastewater stream as a positive step. Wastewater should not be viewed a "source" of these chemicals, instead it receives the chemicals that are produced or used in our homes and businesses. Wastewater treatment is designed to remove pathogens, but not chemicals. Therefore, source control is the most efficient and effective action mechanism to control exposure for humans and the environment. We look forward to working with Ecology and others to prevent and mitigate impacts to water quality and public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to express support.

Sincerely,

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Kamuron Gurol
Division Director