

November 11, 2021

Laura Watson, Director
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Re: Safer Products for Washington – Draft Legislative Report; Extension of Public Comment Period Request

Dear Director Watson:

The following organizations, representing a broad cross section of manufacturers, consumer product companies, retailers and other leading employers in Washington State are writing to request an extension of the public comment period on the upcoming Department of Ecology's (ECY) draft Safer Products for Washington report to the Legislature.

Recently, ECY released its draft legislative report on regulatory determinations for the first chemical/product categories under the Safer Products for Washington law. In its announcement, the public comment period is expected to conclude in the first half of January, 2022.

As you know, the report is likely to propose regulatory actions that could significantly impact a diverse set of industries, products, retailers, and consumers. Electronics, carpeting, textiles, personal care products, detergents, vinyl flooring, and furnishings are all industries with products included in this initial report. Since this report is likely to set a precedent for how ECY plans to assess future products and make regulatory determinations, we believe sufficient time is needed to ensure adequate stakeholder review and to prepare detailed comments.

With the public comment period running over the holiday season, ensuring stakeholders are available to provide important input will be challenging. Understanding the scientific information used by ECY as the basis for its planned regulatory actions will require a thorough technical review. Such a review is critical to ensuring that the proposed regulations are based on the best available science and meet the intent of the enacting statute.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the formal opportunity to provide input on the draft report be extended to February 14, 2022. In our view, this will allow for sufficient stakeholder engagement and not hinder ECY's ability to meet its June 2022 deadline.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with ECY on the implementation of the Safer Products for Washington program. Should you have any questions, please contact Peter Godlewski with the Association of Washington Business at PeterG@awb.org.

Sincerely,

Davis Communications Inc.

