

Melissa Smith

Dear WA Department of Ecology,

Thank you for your work to protect communities and the environment through the Safer Products for Washington process, and for producing a strong proposed report to the legislature. I'm proud to live in a state with the strongest law on the books that addresses toxic chemicals in consumer products.

As a person of faith, I believe that we have a moral obligation to restrict use of toxic chemicals in common and heavily used products, especially since the studied products are often sources of exposure to children, people of childbearing age, and highly impacted communities, which are often communities of color.

I am glad to see that the draft report proposes restrictions on PFAS, organohalogens and organophosphate flame retardants (OFR and OPFRs), phenolic compounds (bisphenols and alkylphenol ethoxylates), phthalates, and PCBs. Thank you for doing the scientific detective work of finding safer alternatives for nearly all of the studied product categories.

I support the strongest possible restrictions of these toxic chemicals in consumer products and believe it is essential that the draft protections not be watered down during this process. The faith community will be looking for strong final proposed restrictions and we hope to see our shared values of safety, responsibility, and stewardship maintained in the final report.

I also urge Ecology to do whatever you can to speed up the Safer Products for Washington program. As retailers continue to voluntarily phase out the use of these chemicals in products, it makes sense to accelerate the timeline for the second round of the Safer Products process.

Finally, I am a woman, a mother, who was diagnosed with an aggressive breast cancer at the age of 45. There is no known cause for the kind of cancer I had but evidence is increasingly pointing toward many of the toxic chemicals used in every day products. I find it imperative that this issue be addressed in the strongest manner possible. I do not want any other person to have to deal with what I, and my children, have had to deal with. Attack this issue as if it were your mother who were just diagnosed with cancer. Approach this issue with the conviction you would have if it was your mother who was given unfavorable statistics on how long she had to live. How could you live with yourself if you did anything less?

Thank you again for your dedication to protecting Washington from toxic chemicals through this prevention-based process of stopping contamination at the source.

Sincerely,
Melissa Smith
27649 238th Ave SE Maple Valley, WA 98038-5103
madrew2003@yahoo.com