Lorraine Hartmann

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.

My Dad died of leukemia and I am very worried about toxins in products, our air, our water and our land.

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

Sincerely,
Dr. Lorraine Hartmann
10627 Durland Ave NE Seattle, WA 98125-6943
lorrainehartmann@comcast.net