

# Gayla Shoemake

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.

Please begin this phase out of these toxic chemicals immediately. How many children are being permanently harmed because of these products still on the market? Once you have eliminated the first category of harmful chemicals, then immediately accelerate the second round. Our children are too precious to wait any longer. These companies have been aware of the toxic properties of their products and have done nothing for many years; they cannot be given any more time to continue damaging the children of our state. These companies continue to increase their profits ignoring the cost paid by our children.

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

Sincerely,  
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