

Jeff Berner

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 became a grandfather this year, which makes the issues of regulation on these dangerous chemicals even more important. And it is even more important for the sake of my grandson that regulations be accelerated for these chemicals which can disrupt or mimic a child's hormonal balance. Increasingly, there is evidence that these chemicals reduce male sperm counts with the net effect of couples having difficulty conceiving or having a child of their own.

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

Sincerely,
Mr. Jeff Berner
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