



June 13, 2023

Washington Department of Ecology

Submitted online

RE: Draft Phthalates Action Plan

Food Northwest appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft Phthalates Action Plan. Established in 1914, Food Northwest is a trade association of food manufacturers in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Many of our members have facilities in Washington, and most of our members sell product in/into the state of Washington. We share the state's goal to protect and improve the environment and to reduce or eliminate exposures to scientifically demonstrated hazardous chemicals.

Food Northwest requests participation on the *Food Articles, Recommendation #1* workgroup charged with reducing the sources of phthalates in food and beverages and on the *Recycling Products and Packaging, Recommendation #2* workgroup that will establish voluntary reporting and labeling protocols.

The Action Plan proposes that a major source of human exposure to phthalates is dietary via migration to food from food contact articles such as processing equipment and packaging. The Food and Drug Administration regulates food contact articles, and the Action Plan recognizes that FDA is working to fill data gaps on the phthalates currently authorized for use. Food Northwest urges the departments of Ecology and Health to coordinate with the FDA as it assesses current food contact uses, use levels, dietary exposure, and safety levels.

Food Northwest looks forward to participating in Action Plan activities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pamela T. Barrow".

Pamela Barrow

Vice President