



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

King Street Center, KSC-NR-5501
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

February 2, 2023

Stacey Callaway
Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program, Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7696
c/o SaferProductsWA@ecy.wa.gov

RE: Support for new rule on Safer Products for Washington - Chapter 173-337 WAC – Safer Products Restrictions and Reporting

Dear Ms. Callaway:

Thank you for the opportunity to support Washington State Departments of Ecology's (Ecology) new rule, Chapter 173-337 WAC – Safer Products Restrictions and Reporting. We appreciate the work that Ecology is undertaking to address several classes of pervasive and persistent chemicals found in common products, in support of human and environmental health.

King County's Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) serves about 1.8 million people within a 424 square mile service area including most urban areas of King County and parts of Snohomish and Pierce Counties. In 2021, our three regional treatment plants and two smaller treatment plants treated a combined daily average of 178 million gallons of wastewater, and together produced 116,000 wet tons of biosolids that were land applied to forests and farms in Washington as a beneficial soil amendment.

WTD supports the new rule and chapter, which aims to reduce toxic chemicals in consumer products, supporting source control of priority chemicals.

As the largest wastewater treatment utility in the state, we support regulations and programs that result in fewer chemicals in the wastewater stream as a positive step. Wastewater should not be viewed a "source" of these chemicals, instead it receives the chemicals that are produced or used in our homes and businesses. Wastewater treatment is designed to remove pathogens, but not chemicals. Therefore, source control is the most efficient and effective action mechanism to control exposure for humans and the environment. We look forward to working with Ecology and others to prevent and mitigate impacts to water quality and public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to commend your work and express support.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Karim Puri
Division Director