

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light

Dear WA Department of Ecology,

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light (WAIPL) represents people of faith and spiritual communities across our state. Our membership of over 5,500 Washingtonians cares deeply about environmental justice and public health as moral issues and for years have been advocating for stronger protections against toxic PFAS chemicals.

We are grateful that our state is a leader in protecting communities from PFAS. Thank you for Ecology's current work to limit and prevent Washingtonians' exposure to these chemicals through Safer Products for Washington, the PFAS Chemical Action Plan, rulemaking with the Department of Health on a standard for PFAS in drinking water, and implementation of the 2018 ban of PFAS in food packaging. In line with this important work, we ask that your scope action on PFAS be expanded to include biosolids.

Earth Ministry/WAIPL is concerned about the presence of PFAS in biosolids sludge used on farmland in our state. PFAS is found in the blood of nearly every American, and it is alarming that a recent peer-reviewed study showed it in the breast milk of 100% of women tested. In order to live into our faith values of justice and stewardship, we must stop continued contamination of our food and communities. One actionable step is to test for PFAS in biosolids sludge before it is spread on land used for food production. Based on scientific testing of sludge from municipal water treatment plants, there is good reason to believe that PFAS is present in sludge used in our state.

Washington already bans the use of PFAS-containing fire-fighting foam (the major source of PFAS contamination in drinking water in our state) and Ecology is implementing a ban on PFAS in food packaging with the goal of reducing exposure of PFAS from food. To truly remove PFAS from our food and water we must also stop spreading sludge on farmland.

Thank you for taking strong action to protect our communities and ecosystems from toxic PFAS.

Sincerely,

Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light