



T O X I C - F R E E L E G A C Y C O A L I T I O N

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September 21, 2016

Director Maia Bellon  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Director Bellon,

We, the undersigned organizations, representing parents, firefighters, healthcare professionals, faith communities, environmental justice activists, disability rights advocates and community members, write in support of the Washington Toxics Coalition's rulemaking petition filed with the Department of Ecology requesting that 12 chemicals, including toxic flame retardants, phthalates, and perfluorinated substances (PFASs), be added to the state's list of Chemicals of High Concern to Children (WAC 173-334-130).

We urge your support in amending the rule to protect public health for these reasons:

1. The current list is limited and does not reflect some toxic chemicals used in significant quantities in consumer products. In particular, phthalates used as plasticizers, flame retardants, and PFASs can be expected to be present in high concentrations in children's products. It is especially important to obtain information about the use of toxic compounds that meet the high priority chemical criteria in the law where exposure can be expected to be higher because of heavy use in products.
2. Toxic flame retardants, phthalates and PFAS chemicals are three important classes of chemicals the Governor and Department of Ecology have prioritized for action. It is important to gather information about the chemicals in these classes to make sure progress is being made when a chemical ban is put in place, to understand what substitutes are being used that may also be harmful, and to fill data gaps in the development of chemical action plans. The agency should be as comprehensive as possible in requiring reporting in these classes.

3. The Governor signed the Toxic-Free Kids and Families Act in 2016, which requires Ecology to consider whether six flame retardants should be added to the list. We support these additions and believe it will be efficient and cost-effective to consider other chemicals in the same rulemaking.
4. States continue to have a clear role in obtaining information on what chemicals are used in products and taking action where necessary. It is a critical time for Washington to continue its leadership role on chemicals and update its rule so that the information can be used in federal regulatory decisions, in light of the reforms to the Toxic Substances Control Act recently passed by Congress and signed by President Obama.
5. Thousands of chemicals are used in consumer products, yet the CHCC list has only 66. Since the rule was originally adopted in 2011, the only change has been to add one compound and remove one. It is reasonable to add chemicals every three to five years.

For these reasons we urge you to take swift action to add these chemicals to the chemical reporting list. It is necessary to obtain this critical information on the use of toxic chemicals in children's products.

Thank you for all you continue to do to make Washington a leader on this important issue.

Sincerely,

LeeAnne Beres  
Executive Director  
Earth Ministry

Karen Bowman, MN, RN, COHN-S  
Washington State Nurses Association

Peter Bloch Garcia  
Executive Director  
Latino Community Fund/Progreso

Diana Stadden  
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The Arc of Washington State

Bruce Speight  
Executive Director  
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Mary McHale  
Director of Government Relations  
American Cancer Society-Cancer Action Network