



**Testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environment
House Bill 3055
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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative and equitable solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

On behalf of Oregon Environmental Council, I am grateful for your careful attention to the health hazard and exposure risk posed by certain flame retardant chemicals added to consumer products. I would like to share some relevant context related to this issue.

In September 2017, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued an advisory¹ to consumers recommending that everyone, but especially those who are pregnant or have young children, ask retailers to be sure that products do not contain added “non-polymeric organohalogen flame retardants” — also known as OFRs – in any amount. The chemicals listed in this bill are among the dozens of formulas in this class of chemicals.

This federal authority found that the additive form of these chemicals migrates from products, leads to widespread exposure, and that there is credible scientific evidence for a wide range of adverse health effects especially for children.

CPSC declared that “there is no known way to direct consumers to use affected products in a manner that would guarantee reducing exposures to an acceptable level.”

Where the federal system has failed to ensure that people are protected from these hazardous chemicals, a number of states have stepped up to give consumers information and protect people from exposure. There are 40 adopted policies on flame retardants in 13 states, and 27 policies under consideration². Oregon is among them: in 2005 and 2009, we banned octa-, penta- and deca-BDE flame retardants to protect health and environment.

This bill underscores the critical importance of Oregon's Toxic Free Kids Act as well. The two chemicals listed explicitly in the bill are covered by the program. Two manufacturer reports were filed with Oregon Health Authority last year, disclosing the presence of one of these chemicals in products sold in Oregon³. As currently enacted, the program gathers critical information about exposures, but does give consumers the information they need to avoid these products.

Thank you for supporting ways to keep consumers informed about ingredients in the products they buy, and to protect children from exposure to chemicals that have the potential to harm health over a lifetime.

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/28/2017-20733/guidance-document-on-hazardous-additive-non-polymeric-organohalogen-flame-retardants-in-certain>

² <http://www.saferstates.org/bill-tracker/FilterBills>

³ <https://oeconline.org/toxic-free-kids-act-2018-all-chemicals-reported/>