



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

729 NE Oregon, Suite 200, Portland, Oregon 97232

Telephone 503 238 0667

Fax 503 235 4228

March 18, 2013

RE: Support for Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act

Dear Esteemed Member of the Oregon Legislature,

On behalf of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, I would like to share our concerns about the *impacts of environmental pollutants on the health of our fishery resource and tribal members*. Even as state agencies work to reduce toxic chemicals in our environment, the same toxics are found in consumer products. These chemicals can migrate into our waterways and into our food sources over time. *We support the Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act and believe that this legislation would help to keep toxics out of the fish that our tribal members and other Oregonians consume.*

We are particularly concerned about mercury, a well-known neurotoxin and possible carcinogen, which accumulate in the bodies of salmon and other fish that we eat. Mercury enters our environment from many sources, including everyday products like imported jewelry marketed to children and in batteries used in children's toys. Because tribal members eat more fish than the general public, our members are exposed to significantly more mercury and other bioaccumulative toxics. Reducing toxics in consumer products will also serve to reduce toxic pollution in our watersheds.

We support legislation to protect our children, our fish, and our environment from the hazards of toxic chemicals. The Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act is a critical step that will allow Oregon to collect and track information about toxics in children's products and will require manufacturers to use safer alternatives to chemicals of concern. Without these chemicals in our children's products, we can better protect our communities and future generations from pollutants that threaten our First Foods.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the Toxics Disclosure for Healthy Kids Act. HB 3162, during the 2013 legislative session.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. If you have any further questions please contact me or Dianne Barton, PhD at 503-238-0667.

Sincerely,

Babtist Paul Lumley
Executive Director