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FOUNDED 1892

To: Members of the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee

From: Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club

Date: February 4, 2014

RE: Senate Bill 1569

Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee: On behalf of our more than 20,000 members and supporters in Oregon, I would like to register the Oregon Sierra Club's strong support for Senate Bill 1569. As an organization with a long history of working to protect Oregon's environment and the health of its citizens, we believe that SB 1569 is long overdue and is vitally important for our state.

As you know, the bill would create a science-based "High Priority Chemicals of Concern for Children's Health" list and require manufacturers to notify Oregon public health officials when their children's products contain these chemicals. It would also require manufacturers to replace harmful chemicals with safer alternatives or apply for a waiver.

The Sierra Club believes that SB 1569 is critically necessary to help address the increasing amounts of toxic chemicals in our homes and bodies. Even everyday products in our homes have been linked to health problems such as cancer, learning disabilities, and chronic diseases including asthma, diabetes, infertility, and Parkinson's disease. Reducing exposures to harmful chemicals is essential to ensuring the health and safety of our communities. And of course, our children are both the most vulnerable to the effects of toxics and also the most crucially important members of our society to protect.

Unfortunately, neither state nor federal officials are able to do an adequate job of protecting us and our kids from these toxic chemicals. SB 1569 will take an important first step in establishing a system to identify, collect, and share information about toxics when they exist in children's products sold in Oregon. The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club emphatically supports Senate Bill 1569 and we urge the members of the committee to do the same. This is about our health and the health of our children, and it is the right thing to do for Oregon.