



## Major Threat to a Healthy Oregon

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To: Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
From: Paige Spence, Oregon League of Conservation Voters;  
and Rhett Lawrence, Oregon Chapter Sierra Club  
Date: April 5, 2017  
RE: Senate Bill 836

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of our thousands of members and supporters in Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon Conservation Network's strong opposition to SB 836.

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of nearly 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations, the Oregon Chapter Sierra Club being one. We work to promote policies that will ensure a better Oregon for our children – and to fight policies that do not.

As an organization with a long history of working to protect Oregon's environment, we prioritized SB 478, which passed into law within three weeks of the end of the 2015 legislative session. It is known as the "Toxic Free Kids Act." We believe that Act was long overdue and is vitally important for our state. SB 836 undermines this critically important law.

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

The Oregon Conservation Network believes that the Toxic Free Kids Act 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.

The Toxic Free Kids Act took 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 Conservation Network emphatically opposes SB 836 and we urge the members of this 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.

