



Representative Pam Marsh, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environment
Oregon Legislature
Re: Environment Oregon supports House Bill 2495.

Chair Marsh and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. The Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 was an important step forward for environmental health and keeping our state's children safe from dangerous chemicals, and we support House Bill 2495 because it expands and strengthens this critical regulation.

Under current statute, the Oregon Health Authority is limited to adding no more than 5 chemicals to the "high-priority" list during every three-year revision cycle. Given that thousands of new toys are introduced to the market every year, we support HB2495's removal of this limit, which will empower OHA to add as many chemicals to this list as is needed to protect children's health. HB2495 also allows OHA to regulate classes of chemicals, meaning that toy manufacturers can't simply substitute a similarly dangerous chemical for another.

To protect their kids from toxic toys, parents need to actually know which toys and toy brands may contain these chemicals. To that end, HB2495 expands the biennial notices for toxic toys to include the brand name and specific model, allowing parents to actually know which toys they should avoid for their kids.

As parents and kids across the state are working and learning from home to protect their health and our communities are struggling with a public health crisis, the last thing families should be worrying about is whether their kids' toys are hazardous to their health. Environment Oregon urges you to support HB2495 to strengthen the Toxic Free Kids Act and protect our children from toxic chemicals. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,
John Ammondson
Advocate, Environment Oregon