

# Faithful Advocacy for God's Creation

How you can make a difference in Washington's 2015 Legislative Session



Faith activists are heroes in a democracy. We value both personal responsibility and shared accountability and all of us are committed to the Golden Rule. In our communities, we work together to make things better, pull together in good times and bad, and care for our neighbors at home and around the world. Environmental stewardship is part of all faith traditions because we cherish the gifts from our Creator and because we want to leave a better world for all God's children.

In Washington State, faith activists want a government that works for "we the people" and protects the health of the natural world God has given us. Each year, Earth Ministry – working with leaders in public policy, science, business, and health care – chooses bills that most strongly reflect our values of stewardship and justice, and advocates for them through the legislative process. Join us in making a difference today!

## Toxic-Free Kids and Families Act HB 1174

The Toxic-Free Kids and Families Act bans six harmful flame retardants that have been known carcinogens for 40 years. It ensures better alternatives for fire safety and removes unnecessary toxins from our home furniture and children's products.

Big chemical companies want to stop any bill that sets standards for safe products. The Toxic-Free Kids and Families Act sets reasonable limits on well-documented poisons that are linked to cancer, autism, and other developmental disorders. Faith communities have a shared responsibility to hold corporations accountable and protect our children's health now and for generations to come.



## Toxic Reduction Act HB 1472

The Toxic Reduction Act gives authority to the Department of Ecology to evaluate the "worst of the worst" chemicals and develop a plan to find safer alternatives to the most horrific offenders.

At a recent hearing on this bill, a young woman carrying a baby testified. She explained that over 80,000 new chemicals have been used in manufacturing since 1950, and almost none are reviewed for safety. Thanks to her PhD in epigenetics, she knows that some chemicals change otherwise normal genes to cause neurological disorders in children, and cancer and lung disease in all of us.

Even though this woman is a scientist, when she became pregnant her professional skills couldn't help her find toxic-free products for her baby. Our legislators can do the right thing and pass this bill. The Toxic Reduction Act creates a clear, logical, and reasoned approach by creating chemical action plans that identify the deadliest chemicals and works with manufactures to find safer alternatives.

# Put Your Faith Into Action Today!

## Call the WA legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000

### **Carbon Pollution Accountability Act HB 1314**

People of faith are doing our part as individuals and congregations to lower our carbon footprint. Meanwhile, industries that emit huge amounts of carbon pollution in Washington State are able to do so with impunity. We are already paying the price of global warming pollution, from ocean acidification causing losses in the shellfish industry to fiercer and more frequent forest fires. These impacts are close to home, yet far worse damage is being inflicted on the poorest regions of the world, where people count on a stable climate for their daily bread.

### **Religious leaders support the Carbon Pollution Accountability Act because it will:**

- Make polluters pay for carbon emissions
- Enforce existing state climate laws
- Reduce harmful emissions in the future
- Generate needed revenue to make smart investments across the entire state, especially in education, transportation, and low-income communities.

### **Oil Transportation Safety Now HB 1449**

During the week of February 14, 2015, there were 3 train derailments, two carrying Bakken oil which caused massive explosions, and one carrying toxic tar sands oil. All three accidents harmed nearby communities and contaminated rivers and water supplies. The blast in West Virginia destroyed one home and caused hundreds of families to be evacuated.

Closer to home, three tankers in a 100-car oil train derailed under the Magnolia Bridge in Seattle last summer. Before 2012, no significant amount of oil came through Washington. Now, 3 mile-long trains a day go through our neighborhoods, carrying almost 8 million gallons of oil. There is a real risk of death and destruction from catastrophic oil train explosions.

This bill gives the public information on how oil is moving through our cities and towns, authorizes common sense oil spill prevention measures, and ensures that companies have enough insurance to clean up oil spills. It also provides funding to modernize the rail system to safeguard our communities and waterways.

