

**TOURISM LEADERS URGE PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION
TO PROTECT WASHINGTON WILDLIFE FROM PBDES**

January 2007

RE: Support for PBDE Phase Out Bill

Dear Legislator:

We are writing as members of the tourism industry to urge you to support a ban on toxic flame retardants, or polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs). We know that much of your work in Washington supports healthy children, communities, environment, and economic development strategies. We ask you again to exhibit your support and pass legislation in the 2007 session to phase out toxics flame retardants.

Toxic flame retardants belong to a class of chemicals called persistent toxic chemicals, which persist in the environment for long periods of time, build up in the food chain, and are toxic at very low levels. PBDEs are linked to neurological, thyroid, and learning problems. PBDEs are found in humans and also are found in wildlife throughout the state.

Recently, scientists have found that PBDE levels are increasing at astonishing rates in our wildlife. In Puget Sound, researchers have found that levels of PBDEs are escalating in the fat of our harbor seals, orca whales, and osprey. Columbia River Salmon have levels of PBDEs that doubled in about a year and a half according to a study released by the State Department of Health last summer.

From a tourism perspective, the prevalence of PBDEs in wildlife is of serious concern. Washington State ranks 5th in the nation for revenues from wildlife viewing. For instance, whale watching in the state was estimated by researcher Erich Hoyt to generate \$13.6 million (2001). Orcas, shorebirds, harbor seals and other species in our ecosystem are indispensable as a legacy for our children and are investments in our economic future. Respect for our wildlife is the lens through which visitors and prospective businesses will view Washington.

Fortunately, you have the opportunity to ensure Washington remains a place where people want to visit by passing a ban on all three forms of PBDEs: Penta, Octa, and Deca. This bill will help prevent PBDEs from contaminating all of the wonderful places and wildlife that people have come to expect in Washington. Please help us protect our businesses, families, and environment by passing the bill to phase out toxics flame retardants.

Respectfully,

Susan Berta
Howard Garrett
Orca Network
2403 North Bluff Rd.
Greenbank, WA 98253
(10th District)

Sally Lider
Environmental Education
Coordinator
Edmonds Parks &
Recreation Edmonds
(21st District)

Dann Sears
Director, Aberdeen
Museum of History
Aberdeen (19th District)

Note: This letter has been signed by individuals. Their views do not necessarily represent the organizations, agencies or institutions, with which they are affiliated.

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Bob Morse
Author, of the best selling
bird book - Birds of the
Puget Sound Region
Olympia (22nd District)

Bill Wright
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Colleen Johansen
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Clark Casebolt Owner,
Outdoor Odysseys
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Greg Whittaker
Alki Kayak Tours West
Seattle (34th District)

Craig Gillespie
Director, Scuba Seattle
Seattle

Joel Rogers
Joel Rogers Photography
Seattle (36th District)

Marty Behr
President, Two Orcas
Langley (10th District)

Jan Burnette
Marine Science Afloat
Edmonds (21st District)

Bromely Henningsen
Washington Water Trails
Association
Seattle (43rd District)

Erik and Megan Schorr
Anacortes Kayak Tours
Anacortes (40th District)

Owen Caddy
Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
City of Edmonds
Edmonds (21st District)

Vicki Adams
Sound Bikes and Kayaks,
Inc. Port Angeles (24th
District)

Robert Hoff
President (40th District)

Anne Murph
Port Hadlock (24th District)

Geoff Mend
Drayton Harbor
Community Oyster Farm
Ferndale (42nd District)

Chris Page
Homewaters Project

Mark Cedergreen
Executive Director
Westport Charter Boat
Association
Westport (19th District)

Northwest Whale Watch
Association and their
members:

Erik and Megan Schorr
Anacortes (Kayak) Tours
Anacortes
(40th District)

William F. Carli
Captain Carli's Charters
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Tom Averno
Deer Harbor Charters
Deer Harbor (40th District)

Harold Benischek
Eagle Wind Tours Ltd
Victoria, BC

Jeff Wonnemberg
Emerald Sea Adventures
Sydney, BC

Eric Johnson
Five Star Whale Watching
Victoria, BC

Andrew Skinner
Great Pacific Adventures
Victoria, BC

Shane Aggergaard
Island Adventures Inc.
Anacortes (40th District)

Jim Maya
Maya's Charters
Friday Harbor (40th District)
Ian F. Stothart
Naturally Salty Excursions
Victoria, BC

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Simon Pidcock
Ocean Ecoventures
Duncan, BC

Adam Hellicar
Ocean Explorations Whale
Watching
Victoria, BC

John Douglas
Orca Spirit Adventures
Group
Victoria, BC

Dan & Denise Wilk
Orcas Island Eclipse
Charters
Orcas (40th District)

Alan McGillivray
Prince of Whales Whale
Watching
Victoria, BC

Dale A. Martinis
PrivateWhaleWatching.com
Everett (38th District)

Peter W. Hanke
Puget Sound Express Inc.
Port Townsend (24th
District)

Tom McMillan
Salish Sea Charters
Roche Harbor(40th District)

Drew Schmidt
San Juan Boat Tours
Bellingham (40th District)

Roger J. Hoff
San Juan Excursions Inc.
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Bill Wright
San Juan Safaris (kayak)/
San Juan Charters
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Liz Madro
Sea Quest Adventures Ltd.
Sydney, BC

Anton Roberts
SeaFun Safaris
Victoria, BC

Dan Kukat
Springtide Charters Ltd
Victoria, BC

J.E. Rick Thompson
Steveston Seabreeze
Adventures Inc.
Richmond, BC

Cedric S. Towers
Vancouver Whale Watch
Richmond, BC

Darrel Bryan
Victoria Clipper
Seattle (36th District)

Robert Plank
Viking Cruises
LaConner (10thDistrict)

Ivan Reiff
Western Prince Cruises
Friday Harbor (40th District)

Roger Obayashi
Wild Whales Vancouver
Vancouver, BC

Don Krekoski
Wildcat Whale Watching
Vancouver, BC

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