

Dear Members of Congress,

As grandparents and aging adults from unique faith traditions, we share a strong calling to honor and protect God's Creation and all life on Earth. We are called to care for the next generation and we want to ensure that all children- including those in low-income households and children of color- inherit a better world.

We are greatly concerned about the rising rates of diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, type II diabetes, and heart disease in the United States. These diseases are expected to double or triple by 2050 when today's children are adults. A number of these conditions are linked to or caused from exposures to toxic chemicals in the products we use in our homes and congregations. Many of us from the baby boomer generation have been exposed to particularly toxic chemicals throughout our lifetime, such as DDT, and we want to ensure a better life for our children and our children's children. We urge you to consider the health of all people today, future generations, and the sacredness of all life on Earth by passing urgently needed chemical policy reform that includes:

- Making sure chemicals are safe before they end up in the products we all use and ultimately migrate into our bodies and the environment.
- Swiftly removing the most dangerous chemicals, such as persistent bioaccumulative toxic (PBT) chemicals, such as DDT, when safer alternatives exist.
- Find ways to reduce the disproportionate burden of toxic chemicals born by low-income communities and communities of color, and in particular by all God's children.

In these ways we can improve the health of God's Creation, and ensure the world is a safe and healthy place for the future generations of God's children.

Sincerely,

Please fax to 503-223-7007 or mail to EMO/INEC, 0245 SW Bancroft, Suite B, Portland, Oregon 97239 no later than July 15, 2011.