



June 2, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Portland State University (PSU) is committed to protecting the health of the public, our employees, and our natural environment. As part of this commitment, we are working in collaboration with other local governments in Oregon and beyond as part of a Healthy Purchasing Coalition.

Doing business with companies that are responsible and offer the best overall value is also an important part of our efforts. Our emerging perspective on the quality of goods and services is one that includes consideration of chemical hazard and toxicity to humans and ecosystems. When factors like cost and availability are the same, products that avoid chemicals of concern and use safer alternatives represent a better value in our opinion.

Future contracts from PSU may include specifications or requirements related to chemical hazard disclosure and avoidance. This information will help us make more informed decisions. Our initial focus includes goods and services purchased to design, construct, and maintain buildings. One reason we are focused on our built environment is because there is strong industry leadership in green building services and products. Research also shows that there is strong potential for extended exposure to hazardous chemicals given the amount of time we spend indoors.

PSU wants to take a harmonized approach and use existing tools to support our healthy purchasing efforts. We believe it will save time and money for us both. For example, some future contracts may require that vendors request product manufacturers to publicly disclose chemical ingredient hazard(s) through a [Health Product Declaration](#) and use that information to identify products that are safer for people and ecosystems.

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to continuing a mutually beneficial relationship.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Stacey L. Balenger, Contracts Officer in Contracting & Procurement Services at Portland State University; 503-725-5244 or balenger@pdx.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stacey L. Balenger".

Stacey L. Balenger