

Mr. Jeffrey P. Bezos  
President, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board  
Amazon.com, Inc.  
410 Terry Ave North  
Seattle, WA 98109-5210

March 7, 2017

Dear Mr. Bezos:

Amazon has achieved remarkable success in a short period of time, remaking the economy in the United States and around the world. Tens of millions enjoy the convenience and the innovations that Amazon has introduced.

Yet, despite that success, compared to some other major retailers Amazon has not substantially addressed the public health, safety, environmental, and social impacts of its supply chain, both at home and abroad.

- A growing body of scientific evidence has linked exposure to even low levels of toxic chemicals, which may come from many sources, to health problems such as cancer, learning and developmental disabilities, and reproductive harm. Some of these chemicals can interfere with and disrupt hormones and/or accumulate in the body, so even small exposures can contribute to elevated risk. That's why it is important that retailers investigate, disclose and reduce toxic chemicals in the products they sell. In fact, many retailers, such as Walmart and Target, have taken steps to do so. Comparatively, in the recent report card *"Who's Minding the Store?"*, Amazon received an F grade, the lowest score on transparency and chemicals among major retailers, because it has made no discernable progress in these areas.
- The apparel industry is increasingly under scrutiny for its impact on worker and community health and the environment, prompting several major apparel brands and retailers to develop robust safer chemical initiatives to drive harmful chemicals out of apparel supply chains. Amazon has announced no such initiative.
- Some electronic brands have taken measures to ensure the products they make or sell are manufactured and disposed of in a responsible way. In particular, others have made efforts to use safer chemicals, as well as materials and minerals that have been ethically sourced. Amazon has not meaningfully addressed these issues in a public fashion and has not followed through on a promise to collaborate with a shareholder group to find solutions.
- Businesses across many industries track and disclose their greenhouse gas emissions as a necessary step toward doing their part to mitigate climate change. Amazon has avoided this disclosure and accountability, receiving an "F" from CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project) in 2016 for failing to provide sufficient data to be evaluated.<sup>1</sup>

In short, Amazon has fallen behind the recent trend toward corporate social responsibility, transparency and sustainability as it has grown. The experience of other companies shows that the public health impacts of toxic chemical-intensive products and carbon pollution caused by offshoring manufacturing to the developing world—to consumers, workers and communities along the supply chain—may be externalized to others and hidden from public view. As Amazon expands into new private-label product categories, such as apparel and electronics, it needs to be conscious of these hidden costs, which may mount. Given Amazon's large size, it is in a position to reinforce the global trend of improvement in these areas.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdp.net/en/responses?utf8=%E2%9C%93&queries%5Bname%5D=Amazon.com+Inc>.

As one of the largest retailers in the world, Amazon is an industry leader. We ask you to take responsibility for the public health and environmental impact of Amazon's supply chain, starting with the following concrete steps:

1. Measure Amazon's Chemical Footprint<sup>2</sup> and develop and publicize a comprehensive safer chemicals policy to identify, remove, and safely substitute toxic chemicals that may be present in or used to manufacture products and packaging that you sell, beginning with your private label products in electronics, apparel, and formulated household products, and expanding it to your other largest private label and brand name products over time.
2. Develop comprehensive strategies to facilitate effective take-back of consumers' end-of-life electronics that were purchased on Amazon, and become an e-Stewards Enterprise company<sup>3</sup> to ensure that all electronic waste generated (e.g. including but not limited to waste from Amazon Web Services data centers) or collected by Amazon is responsibly recycled.<sup>4</sup> Amazon should also source materials that meet or go beyond the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA) standard for use in your electronics.<sup>5</sup>
3. Track and disclose Amazon's contribution to climate change through CDP's Climate Change questionnaire,<sup>6</sup> specifically including full accounting of Scopes 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions via the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard.<sup>7</sup>
4. Publicly report on progress in implementing these initiatives with clear goals, benchmarks and timeframes, at a minimum in an annual sustainability report, which some investors have been encouraging Amazon to publish in recent years.

In short, we urge you to do more to assess the impact of, publicly disclose, and where appropriate, clean up Amazon's supply and disposal chain, beginning with your private label products and expanding to brand name products sold by Amazon over time. We urge you to take steps, in keeping with your role as an industry leader, to ensure that the benefits that Amazon provides to consumers are accompanied by a commitment and actions to improve public health and the sustainability of products and your supply chain.

We do not doubt that the expertise exists within the company for Amazon to be a global leader in addressing the public health and environmental impacts of your supply chain, especially as the company has expanded its corporate social responsibility team over the past few years.

There is a growing business case for actively managing the public health, social and environmental impacts of your supply chain, as documented in the recent United Nations report: *The Business Case for Knowing Chemicals in Products and Supply Chains*.

**We request the opportunity to meet with you and would appreciate receiving your written response to our recommendations by April 7, 2017.** We are prepared to work with you to provide scientific and technical assistance to address these serious issues. We would be pleased to discuss with you our mutual interest in providing safe, quality products for your customers. If you would like to discuss

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.chemicalfootprint.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://e-stewards.org/learn-more/for-enterprises/>

<sup>4</sup> e-Stewards Enterprise companies are committed to e-Stewards Certified recyclers -- a certification standard that protects workers, the public's data and conforms to international law that prohibits global dumping of electronic wastes and the subsequent exposure of poorer communities abroad to toxic electronic waste.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.responsiblemining.net/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cdp.net/en/companies-discloser>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ghgprotocol.org/standards/scope-3-standard>

options and approaches, please contact Mike Schade, Mind the Store Campaign Director of Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families at (646) 783-3477 or mikeschade@saferchemicals.org.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this leadership opportunity.

Sincerely,

Andy Igrejas, Director  
Kitchen Table Campaigns  
Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families

Lynn Thorp, National Campaigns Director  
Clean Water Action

Rebecca Meuninck, Deputy Director  
Ecology Center

Mike Belliveau, Executive Director  
Environmental Health Strategy Center

Rachel Lincoln Sarnoff, Executive Director  
5 Gyres Institute

Pamela Miller, Executive Director  
Alaska Community Action on Toxics

Katie Huffling, Executive Director  
Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment

Esmé Grant Grewal, Senior Director of  
Government Relations  
American Network of Community Options and  
Resources (ANCOR)

Kim Musheno, Director of Public Policy  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Jim Puckett, Executive Director  
Basel Action Network

Karuna Jaggar, Executive Director  
Breast Cancer Action

Jason Pfeifle, Public Health Advocate  
California Public Interest Research Group  
(CalPIRG)

Michael Green, Executive Director  
Center for Environmental Health

Daniel Rosenberg, Director, Chemical Reform  
Project  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

Sarah Doll, Executive Director  
Safer States

Laurie Valeriano, Executive Director  
Toxic-Free Future

Lois Gibbs, Founder  
Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ)

Mike Tidwell, Executive Director  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Kathleen Curtis, Executive Director  
Clean and Healthy New York

Jackie Bowen, Executive Director  
Clean Label Project

Michael Fitts, Executive Director  
Connecticut Council on Occupational Safety and  
Health (ConnectiCOSH)

Michael Marx, Director  
Corporate Ethics International

Tyson Miller, Director of Programs  
Dogwood Alliance

LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director  
Earth Ministry

Lisa F. Garcia, Vice President Of Litigation,  
Healthy Communities  
Earthjustice

Jennifer Krill, Executive Director  
Earthworks

Kendra Klein, PhD, Staff Scientist  
Friends of the Earth

Ahmina Maxey, U.S & Canada Regional  
Coordinator  
GAIA

Alejandro González, International Coordinator  
Good Electronics

Phillip Mattera, Director of the Corporate  
Research Project  
Good Jobs First

Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director  
Green America

Kathleen Schuler & Deanna White, Co-Directors  
Healthy Legacy Coalition

Ted Smith, Coordinator  
International Campaign for Responsible  
Technology

Sarita Gupta, Executive Director  
Jobs With Justice

Martha Moriarty, Director  
LDA Minnesota

Madeleine Foote, Legislative Representative  
League of Conservation Voters

Patricia Lillie, President  
Learning Disabilities Association of America  
(LDA)

Jan Saul, Healthy Children's Project  
Representative  
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia

Bev Johns and Penny Richards, Immediate Past  
President and Board Member  
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois

Tracy Gregoire, Healthy Children's Project  
Coordinator  
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine

Regina Carey, Immediate Past President  
Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan

Terry Cavanaugh and Candace Stout, Healthy  
Children's Project Co-Committee Chairs  
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey

Evie Lindberg, President  
Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma

Analisa Smith, President  
Learning Disabilities Association of South  
Carolina

Dr. Joy S. Marsh, State President  
Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee

Deanne Shields, President  
Learning Disabilities Association of Utah

Sheheryar Kaoosji, Director, Project for Clean and  
Safe Ports  
Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Kelsey Wirth, Co-founder and Board Chair  
Mothers Out Front

Jessica Martinez, Co-Executive Director  
National Council for Occupational Safety and  
Health (National COSH)

Dan Fatton, Executive Director  
New Jersey Work Environment Council

Shaney jo Darden, Founder  
Non Toxic Revolution  
The Keep A Breast Foundation

Brian Buzby, Executive Director  
North Carolina Conservation Network

Jennifer Coleman, Health Outreach Director  
Oregon Environmental Council

Barbara Gottlieb, Director Environment and  
Health  
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)

Dianna Cohen, CEO and Co-Founder  
Plastic Pollution Coalition

Scott Parkin, Interim Climate & Energy Program  
Director  
Rainforest Action Network

Noah Seidel, Self-Advocacy Coordinator  
Self Advocates in Leadership

Jim Ace, Senior Campaigner  
Stand.earth (Stand)

Michael O'Heaney, Executive Director  
Story of Stuff

Matthew Zachary, Founder/CEO  
Stupid Cancer

Angus Wong, Campaign Manager  
SumOfUs

Robin Schneider, Executive Director  
Texas Campaign for the Environment

Annie Acosta, Director of Fiscal and Family  
Support Policy  
The Arc of the United States

Diana Stadden, Policy & Advocacy Coordinator  
The Arc of Washington State

Dev Gowda, Toxics Advocate  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S.PIRG)

Jamie Rhodes, Program Director  
Upstream Policy Institute

Lauren Hierle, Political Director  
Vermont Conservation Voters

Paul Burns, Executive Director  
Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG)

Mark Meinster, Executive Director  
Warehouse Worker Justice Center

Bruce Speight, Executive Director  
Washington Public Interest Research Group  
(WashPIRG)

Germain Harnden, Executive Director  
Western New York Council on Occupational  
Safety and Health (WNYCOSH)

Erin Switalski, Executive Director  
Women's Voices for the Earth

Heather Trimm, Executive Director  
Zero Waste Washington

CC: Kara Hurst, Director, Worldwide Sustainability & Social Responsibility