

Toxic-Free Food Campaign statement on the fourth annual *Who's Minding the Store?* — A Report Card on Retailer Actions to Eliminate Toxic Chemicals:

“The fourth annual [Retailer Report Card](#) ranking major corporations on their chemical safety policies was released last week, and we were pleased to see significant progress from market leaders Ahold Delhaize, Panera Bread, and Rite Aid, who are addressing toxic chemicals like phthalates in food after several years of consumers calling for corporate action on this issue through our Toxic-Free Food campaign,” **said Brandon Moore, national campaign director at the Environmental Health Strategy Center, which leads the national alliance of public health nonprofits behind the Toxic-Free Food Campaign.** “Specifically, Ahold Delhaize released a policy restricting phthalates in food packaging; Panera Bread has restricted the use of food packaging with phthalates and committed to phasing out vinyl foodservice gloves which can contaminate food with phthalates; and Rite Aid has expanded its safer chemicals policy to include food and beverages. This demonstrates that when concerned consumers demand action on toxic chemicals, companies take notice.”

“Food remains the top source of exposure to phthalates, for most Americans,” **Moore continued.** “For that reason, we were also disappointed to see that restaurants lagged behind other sectors on addressing toxic chemicals like phthalates. Dining out is associated with even higher exposure to phthalates, yet major chains like McDonald’s, Starbucks, and Subways all received an ‘F’ for having no chemical safety policy of any kind. We encourage consumers to learn more about this issue and call on marketplace leader McDonald’s to take action now, at www.ToxicFreeFood.org.”