

Testimony of Phil Sherwood  
 Deputy Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
 Before the Environment Committee  
 March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Good morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee. My name is Phil Sherwood and I am the Deputy Director of the Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG). CCAG has approximately 25,000 member families and we appreciate the opportunity to speak in favor of **HB 6572 AN ACT CONCERNING BANNING BISPHEENOL-A IN CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS AND FOOD PRODUCTS.**

Bisphenol-A (BPA) is in the linings of many food and beverage cans and is used to make polycarbonate plastics and epoxy resins. BPA leaches into food and drinks where it is commonly ingested. Testing confirms that over 90% of our population carries BPA in their bodies, and independent science has linked low doses of the substance to infertility, obesity, early puberty, breast and prostate cancer, diabetes, thyroid malfunction, birth defects, and even attention deficit disorders.

It has not been until the past couple of decades where BPA has been used so extensively in consumer products yet it has been known to be a hormone disrupter since the 1930's. The use and variety of chemicals in our consumer products have evolved radically since the 1970's but our regulations have not. Despite the mounting evidence demonstrating BPA to be unsafe, there is good news- there are known safer alternatives.

Massive consumer pressure and mounting scientific evidence have some companies phasing out BPA from their products on their own. The chemical industry's intentions with BPA are crystal clear in light of this heightened awareness. They understand that because of the severity of BPA's health concerns, and the existence of safer alternatives, that BPA's days are numbered. They understand regulators will eventually do the right thing and prohibit it. In light of that, industry efforts are focused on delaying regulation. The chemical industry makes 1 million dollars an hour on this chemical and is producing over 2 billion pounds of it every year. Delay pays.

In an effort to defeat legislation last session that would have required the use of safer alternatives to chemicals such as BPA, the chemical companies spent over \$300,000 in lobbying expenses in an attempt to push their corporate funded "voodoo" science claiming that not only is BPA not harmful, but that it might actually be healthy to children.

**INDUSTRY GIVES BPA PASSING GRADE, GOVERNMENT FAILS**

*Table showing the funding for low-dose studies of the chemical bisphenol a (bpa) and the study outcome*

SOURCE OF FUNDING	STUDY OUTCOME		
	HARM	NO HARM	TOTAL
<b>Government</b>	189 (93%)	15 (7%)	204
<b>Chemical Corporations</b>	0 (0%)	14 (100%)	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	189 (87%)	29 (13%)	218

Bisphenol-A lingers far longer in the bodies of babies than in adults because of the lack of a liver enzyme needed to break it down. A recent study published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* demonstrated that infants appear to have significantly greater levels of bisphenol-A in their bodies. In this case, 11 times higher than adults. To that note, CCAG applauds the efforts on another bill, SB 791, but feel HB 6572 goes much further to prevent exposure to infants, where prevention matters most.

Similarly disturbing findings have caused researchers and health professionals to recommend that parents should try to make sure their babies have no exposure to bisphenol-A, and that pregnant women should minimize what they ingest to protect their developing fetuses.

In order to reduce exposures for children and women of child bearing age, the bill should:

- Phase out BPA in products marketed for young children, including food and beverage containers
- Phase out BPA from food cans so that women of child bearing age and developing fetuses are protected
- Prohibit replacement with other toxic hazards

Our long-term goal needs to be to create a framework that more proactively regulates chemicals so that we don't have to keep addressing them one chemical at a time. We know toxic chemicals are present in everyday products, our workplaces, and are accumulating in all of us. Connecticut can be a leader by promoting safer solutions, and HB 6572 addresses a major chemical of concern and goes a long way in protecting those that are most vulnerable to exposure.

Thank you for your time.

Phil Sherwood,  
Deputy Director  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group

CCAG is a member of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut.

Coalition Members Include: Administrative and Residual Employees Union # 4200 (A & R 4200) \* Bridgeport East End Community Council \* Clean Water Action \* Community Health Network of CT \* CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) \* CT Association of Public Health Nurses (CAPHN) \* CT Association of School Nurses \* CT Chapter, American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO-CT) \* CT Citizen Action Group \* CT Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ) \* CT Council on Occupational Safety & Health \* CT Employees Union Independent \* CT Foundation for Environmentally Safe Schools \* CT NOFA \* CT Nurses Association (CNA) \* CT Planned Parenthood \* ConnPIRG \* CT Public Health Association (CPHA) \* CT State African-American Affairs Commission \* CT State Council of Machinists \* Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) \* Ecological Health Organization (ECHO) \* Environment Connecticut \* Fairfield County Environmental Justice Network \* Greater Hartford Central Labor Council \* Interreligious Eco-Justice Network \* Milford Environmental Concerns Coalition \* Muhammad Islamic Center's Health Awareness Advisory Council \* North Hartford Seniors In Action \* Norwalk Federation of Teachers \* Sierra Club Connecticut Chapter \* Teamsters 559 \* Toxics Action Center \* The Watershed Partnership \* Yale Student Environmental Coalition \*