

Written Testimony of Susan Eastwood, Conversations for a Green CT,
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee, March
2nd, 2009, Testimony in Support of:

HB 6572 and SB 919

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, and members of the Environment Committee, my name is Susan Eastwood and my testimony is in support of "HB 6572 and SB 919". Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you about this important issue.

The problem of toxic chemical exposure in our everyday lives is enormous and seems overwhelming to address. However, it is evident that these chemicals are most damaging to the young and that is the place to begin to correct the problem. I support **HB 6572 An Act Concerning Banning Bisphenol-A in Children's Products and Food Products and Prohibiting Certain Alternative Substances.**

BPA is the key ingredient in polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resin, raw materials that are used for a wide range of products including baby bottles, food cans, and microwavable containers. Independent testing shows that BPA leaches out of these products, particularly with heat.

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

Why should a parent have no choice but to expose their infant to this dangerous chemical? Safer alternatives exist, and we have a responsibility to make sure that all children's products are made with non-toxic materials. 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

I also support **SB 919 An Act Phasing Out the Use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers** because safer alternatives also exist which allow fire-resistance as well as a non-toxic alternative to toxic polybrominated diphenyl ethers. This is the central conclusion that led the governments of California, Maine, and others in Europe to pass new legislation that modernizes their standards and sets new restrictions regarding flame retardants.

Thank you for your kind attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Susan Eastwood, 178 Waterfall Road, Ashford, CT 06278