



# Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

P.O. Box 2022, Hartford, Connecticut 06145-2022 Phone (860) 548-1133 Fax (860) 548-9197  
[cccej@environmental-justice.org](mailto:cccej@environmental-justice.org) [www.environmental-justice.org](http://www.environmental-justice.org)

## Testimony of Tom Kemble In support of SB 210 February 23, 2011

My name is Tom Kemble from Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. I am here to testify in support of SB 210 An Act prohibiting the use of Bisphenol A in thermal receipt paper and increasing the duties of the Chemical Innovations Institute. Bisphenol A or BPA is found on about half of the cash receipts we handle every day, in the form of an unbound powdery substance that rubs off on our hands, and can be absorbed through the skin. Many low income workers are employed as cashiers and are needlessly exposed to BPA as they handle cash receipts all day. They then go home and expose their families to the powdery BPA left on their hands. This exposure thus impacts low-income families in insidious ways. Exposure to BPA, is linked with cancers, early puberty, altered brain development, metabolic disturbances such as obesity and insulin resistance and other serious medical problems.

BPA is dangerous to developing children. The Connecticut state legislature has found it necessary to pass legislation banning BPA use in baby bottles, infant formula can linings, as well as beverage and food containers. The CT Departments of Public Health and Consumer Protection issued a warning in January of 2010 advising pregnant women to limit consumption of canned food and drinks because of the risk of BPA to the unborn child. We should now take the next step and ban BPA in cash receipts, because of the increased exposure many children have to BPA, as their parents unknowingly handle food with BPA tainted hands in the home.

BPA is a known endocrine disrupter and is linked, even before birth with cancers, early puberty, altered brain development, metabolic disturbances such as obesity and insulin resistance. The public health concerns involved with BPA is an example of why we need a comprehensive chemical policy that will identify the toxic chemicals of high concern and suggest safer alternatives. SB 210 will take us in this direction