



# Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

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

Testimony of Joseph Wasserman  
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice  
Before the Environment Committee  
Public Hearing March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Re: Testimony in Support of HB5116, An Act Requiring Labeling of Food Packaging that Contains Bisphenol-A

Good Afternoon Senator Meyers , Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Joseph Wasserman and I am a community organizer with Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice or CCEJ. I am here to testify in favor HB 5116, An Act Requiring Labeling of Food Packaging that Contains Bisphenol-A or BPA.

In behalf of CCEJ I would like to urge you to pass HB 5116 to provide the labeling warning the public of the existence of BPA in cans, beverage containers and other types of food packaging. BPA has been linked to breast and prostate cancers, reproductive disorders, attention deficit disorder, diabetes, obesity and hyperactivity. BPA leaches out of the food packaging and into the food. Children are particularly vulnerable to BPA during critical windows of development and pregnant women may unknowingly be exposing her unborn child to this health risk.

At CCEJ we are especially concerned about the fact that low-income families may be using canned food to feed their families on a more frequent basis, thus unknowingly exposing their children to this toxic chemical. CCEJ is also concerned that these dangerous toxins, such as BPA, end up, all too often, buried in landfills or burned in incinerators in low-income communities and communities of color. This issue of disposal adds an additional urgency to the need to find safer substitutes to the dangerous chemicals that children, along with the rest of us, are exposed to on a continual basis. Labeling these chemicals is a good first step in this process. Please protect our children and communities by passing HB 5116

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this critical piece of legislation.

Joseph Wasserman  
CT Coalition for Environmental Justice  
10 Jefferson Street, Unit C-1  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-548-1133