

**Written Testimony of Susan Eastwood  
Of Clean Water Action and Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 7, 2012**

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 5116, An Act Requiring Labeling of Food Packaging  
that Contains Bisphenol-A**

Good Morning Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor **HB 5116**, An Act Requiring Labeling of Food Packaging that Contains Bisphenol-A.

My name is Susan Eastwood. I am the Director of Communications and Outreach with Clean Water Action and the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut, a group of over 50 non-profits working to phase out toxic chemicals from everyday products. I am also a parent of two children and I am deeply concerned about the safety of the food we eat and the beverages we drink when it comes in packaging that contains the endocrine-disruptor, Bisphenol-A.

The chemical bisphenol-A (BPA) is a known hormone disruptor that has been linked to cancer, infertility and early puberty. BPA is especially dangerous to developing children, and I am proud that Connecticut has passed the strongest law in the nation to protect young children from this dangerous chemical. The CT Departments of Public Health and of Consumer Protection issued a warning in January of 2010 to pregnant women to limit consumption of canned food and drinks because the BPA in most can linings presents a risk to their unborn child. But more action is needed to protect all of us from unavoidable exposure to BPA in our daily lives.

BPA is used to make polycarbonate plastic and epoxy resins used to line food and beverage cans. It leaches out of these containers into the food or beverage; a recent 2010 study showed that a main source of BPA exposure is through food. The high levels of BPA in can linings and other food packaging are a shocking example of how impossible it is to shop ourselves out of this problem. And this is also an issue of environmental justice because people with lower incomes rely heavily on less expensive canned goods in their diets. I encourage the legislature to act quickly to label food packaging which contains BPA! Consumers have a right to know what is in the food they eat!

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for their leadership in this area. Please make passing **HB 5116** a priority this legislative session. I will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you,

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