



**Written Testimony of Anne Hulick  
Of Clean Water Action and Coalition for a Safe and Healthy CT  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee  
March 7, 2014**

**Testimony in support of SB 316, An Act Requiring the Labeling of Food Products that are Packaged in Materials that Contain Bisphenol-A.**

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and honorable members of the Environment Committee ,

My name is Anne Hulick, RN, MS, JD and I am the Co-Director of CT Clean Water Action and the Coordinator of the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut (Coalition). I am also a nurse with many years of experience in environmental health. The Coalition is a large diverse, advocacy group comprised of over fifty five member organizations of health professionals, environmental justice advocates, labor groups, public health professionals, environmental experts, faith based groups, scientists and many individuals across Connecticut that are concerned about the growing body of research linking exposure to toxic chemicals with the rise in serious diseases. Toxic chemical exposure during critical windows of fetal development and to young infants and children is of particular concern.

Our Coalition would like to thank members of this committee that supported a similar bill last session to label genetically modified food. We hope we can count on you to do the same for SB 316.

We've all heard the arguments that bisphenol A (BPA) is safe in products and the exposure is too low to cause harm. That is not what the science is telling us. Over 200 independent scientific studies document that very low doses is linked to a staggering number of health problems including breast and prostate cancer, obesity, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, altered development of the brain and immune systems, lowered sperm count and early puberty. Exposure to BPA is particularly harmful during critical phases of development. We know that the placenta is not a barrier to a developing fetus. Recent analysis of umbilical cord blood from babies born in the U.S. showed the presence of 287 toxic chemicals including carcinogens, pesticides, neurotoxins and other industrial chemicals. Our babies are being born polluted! Evidence now suggests that it is the timing of exposure rather than the amount of exposure and exposure during fetal development poses a significant risk.

The World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme report (2013) stated that "over the last decade, scientific understanding of the relationship between exposure to



endocrine disruptors and health has advanced rapidly. There is growing concern that EDCs (endocrine disrupting chemicals) could play a larger role in the causation of many endocrine disorders and diseases than previously believed.”<sup>1</sup>

Studies by the Silent Spring Institute demonstrated that food packaging is a major source of BPA exposure.<sup>2</sup> BPA leaches out of the food packaging container into the food or beverage. This is not dependent on the type of food or how long the item has been on the store shelf. While eating fresh food is the easiest way to reduce exposure to BPA from food packaging, many people rely on canned and packaged foods to feed their families. We believe that consumers have a right to know what is in their food! SB 316 is a step in the right direction. It will provide valuable information to consumers and may drive much needed market changes to safer alternatives for food packaging, like tetra-packs. Connecticut is clearly recognized as a national leader in reducing exposure to the endocrine-disruptor-BPA thanks to members of this committee. Let’s continue this leadership. Clearly the citizens of Connecticut have demonstrated that we have a right to know about harmful chemicals in products.

We urge your support of SB 316 and thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Hulick".

Anne Hulick

---

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization and United Nations Environment Programme, “*State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals-2012*” p. x. <http://www.who.int/ceh/publications/endocrine/en/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.silentspring.org/our-research/research-updates/new-study-shows-fresh-food-diet-reduces-levels-hormone-disruptors-bpa->