



**Statement of the North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. (NAMPA)  
in Response to Feinstein Legislation/S. 593**

The March 13, 2009, introduction of legislation by Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Representative Edward Markey (D-MA) to ban Bisphenol A (BPA) in all applications, including food and beverage containers, represents a misguided reaction to unfounded fears and demonstrates a complete disregard for the broad consensus among international regulatory authorities regarding the safety of BPA in food contact applications. If enacted into law, this legislation will have the unfortunate result of creating serious consequences in food safety and food protection for the American public.

It is ironic that on the same day Senate and House members introduced legislation to protect the public from BPA, two more nations went on record in affirming its safety. Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), an independent statutory agency responsible for setting food standards in the two countries, reviewed the scientific evidence and reached the conclusion that low levels of exposure to BPA do not pose a significant health risk and “BPA is rapidly inactivated and then excreted in the urine.” Like FSANZ, the use of BPA-based coatings in metal packaging has been determined to be safe by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Health Canada, the European Food Safety Authority, and national health agencies in the United Kingdom, Germany, and Japan.

While a limited number of studies have raised questions, these works have been reviewed by the regulatory agencies and they have determined they do not in any way justify banning BPA. To single out BPA and require its replacement with untested alternatives makes no sense and puts the world’s food supply in jeopardy.

Taken to its logical conclusion, the approach advocated by these members of Congress ignores the fact that the use of epoxy coatings in metal packaging is the most effective way to protect the food product and keep it safe for human consumption by preventing microbial contamination. The proposed legislation effectively would mean the elimination of all canned foods and beverages from store shelves, even with the limited period for alternatives development. This unintended consequence would be inevitable because there simply is no readily available, suitable alternative to BPA-based can coatings that meets the essential safety and performance requirements for the broadest spectrum of foods now packaged in metal and glass containers.

NAMPA currently is working cooperatively with government authorities in both the U.S. and Canada to ensure the continued safe use of this vital technology. Still, commercial application of alternatives in development even today remains years away from market implementation. Before any alternatives that might be developed can be commercialized, they must undergo thorough, multi-year testing programs to ensure that food safety is not compromised.

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**About NAMPA**

The North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc. and its members support sound science and trust the scientific review process that has protected our food supply for decades. For further information, visit [www.metal-pack.org](http://www.metal-pack.org).

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