



Statement of North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc.

State Legislative Proposals

Although the stated intent of various state legislative proposals appears to be directed at specific applications of bisphenol A (BPA), the reality is that the impact of these measures, if enacted, will go beyond those applications and cause adverse unintended consequences. BPA is an essential component in the epoxy resin coating used in metal packaging, such as infant formula containers, baby food jars, and other canned food and beverages. Metal can technology and epoxy coatings are integral components of a technology essential to protecting the integrity of the food product. Epoxy resin enables the high temperature sterilization that eliminates the dangers of food poisoning from microbial contaminants. With recent and high profile incidences of food contamination resulting in tragic consequences, these risks to food safety must be considered.

In addition to the benefits of food safety, canned food products play a critical role in feeding those in need; a role that cannot be easily or effectively replaced by fresh, refrigerated, or frozen food alternatives. Metal packaged products offer a significantly longer shelf-life for foods, making them the best option to provide nutritious foods at the lowest possible cost to people around the world. Conversely, fresh foods are only viable for a few weeks, and refrigerated or frozen foods are too costly for food pantries to maintain in storage. Metal packaged products offered through local food pantries or Women, Infant and Children (WIC) programs provide invaluable assistance to those in greatest need.

On January 15, 2010, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) acknowledged that while it is seeking additional research to clarify uncertainties about potential BPA risks, FDA also clearly stated that BPA has not been proven to be harmful to children or adults in any of its current uses.

Because of the potential adverse impacts, state efforts to restrict BPA's use runs counter to FDA's specific instructions to the public -- no changes should be made in food packaging or consumption, whether by industry or consumers, that could jeopardize either food safety or reduce access to and intake of food needed to provide good nutrition, particularly for infants.



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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.

February 16, 2010