

CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



April 27, 2010

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
FAX: (202) 228-3954

Dear Senator Feinstein;

Re: Opposition to BPA Ban Amendments to the Food Safety Bill

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to oppose any amendments to the Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510) banning the sale of canned food and beverage packaging containing bisphenol-A (BPA). Such an amendment would effectively close many tin mill facilities, with a result in the shutdown of numerous can making and food processing facilities throughout California, and putting workers out of jobs.

As you may know, the California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based nonprofit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work toward positive action on key issues that affect California's economic climate.

The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in California. Our members include over 15,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, representing three million jobs--one quarter of the state's private sector workforce, as well as 450 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations.

Through its grassroots action program, the California Chamber reaches out to a statewide network of approximately 430,000 small business owners. The California Chamber also offers a variety of services to help businesses comply with complex laws and regulations, as well as, compete in the international marketplace.

The California Chamber supports expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business. The California Chamber of Commerce has supported a number of state and federal trade related programs, but it should be noted that the CalChamber also dissuades the introduction of legislation that is unnecessary, unconstitutional or violates existing trade agreements.

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The United States produces 135 billion food, beverage and general line metal cans annually. BPA has been in use for over 30 years with no ill effects and is a key ingredient in the epoxy resins used in metal food packaging to prevent spoilage and contamination. The can coatings are produced by coating suppliers that use FDA approved materials. The Obama Administration and the FDA have found that BPA is safe for its current uses. This finding on the safety of BPA has been endorsed by the European Union, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and even California.

Currently, the FDA has begun working with the food industry in a cooperative effort to reduce or eliminate BPA exposure. This important partnership should be encouraged to help reinforce the research efforts underway.

On behalf of the California Chamber of Commerce, we oppose any amendment that would effectively ban the use of BPA until it is scientifically determined that BPA poses a risk to human health or the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susanne Stirling".

(Mrs.) Susanne T. Stirling
Vice President, International Affairs

STS:alb