



April 7, 2010

To: All U.S. Senators
Re: Opposition to S.593, the “Ban Poisonous Additives Act”

Dear Senator,

On behalf of American taxpayers, we write to urge your opposition to S. 593, the “Ban Poisonous Additives Act,” sponsored by Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY), which seeks to effectively ban the use of Bisphenol A (BPA) in food and beverage containers.

BPA is one of the most ubiquitously used chemicals that strengthens many plastic products, helps prevent food spoilage and contamination when used in food containers, and can withstand high heat enabling metal cans to tolerate temperatures necessary for sterilization purposes.

S. 593 comes before you only weeks after the FDA’s most recent update to its policy again finding the substance safe as currently used. According to Josha Sharfstein, M.D., Chief Deputy Commissioner at the FDA, there is no reason to be concerned regarding the safety of the substance: “If we thought it [BPA] was unsafe, we would be taking strong regulatory action.”

The FDA’s position is supported by a whole body of regulatory agencies around the world, which have drawn the same conclusions basing their decision on scientific evidence. Even the European Union, known to adhere to stricter standards when it comes to the evaluation of chemicals and following the “precautionary principle” – basing environmental policy on suspected risk rather than evidence – have found no reason to ban or restrict the use of BPA and has deemed it safe for use in products handled by both adults and infants.

S.593 would negatively affect food processors who have already invested into stocking up on the chemical, and who would suffer significant losses under a product ban. What’s worse, there is no known equivalent to BPA that is considered safe for use to prevent food spoilage and contamination.

We understand that BPA has long been vilified by environmental groups and many journalists. **However, we caution against basing regulatory policies on hunches and fear mongering. Proven standards and science suggest that a ban of BPA – certainly absent a viable and safe equivalent for food preservation – is the wrong direction, and sets a bad precedent.**

Consequently, we urge you to reject S. 593.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

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