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Contact: John Kartch
jkartch@atr.org

Regulatory Overreach in the Making

Fear mongering drives Feinstein push to ban Bisphenol A

WASHINGTON, DC – On Tuesday, April 13 the Senate is set to vote on S. 593, the Ban Poisonous Additives Act, sponsored by Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY). The bill would effectively ban the use of Bisphenol A (BPA). 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.

The legislative push to ban the chemical, which has long been targeted by several environmental groups and journalists, continues in spite of the FDA's most recent update to its policy again finding the substance safe as currently used. A whole body of regulatory agencies around the world, including those with even more rigorous standards, has drawn the same conclusion after various theories on the dangers of BPA have scientifically been refuted, and have deemed the chemical safe for use.

“Let me get this straight: The FDA has emphatically stated and re-stated that it considers BPA safe as currently used, and even the regulatory body of the European Union, which is known to be more stingy when it comes to evaluating chemicals, says BPA is safe,” says Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Still, the substance has been sufficiently vilified for nanny staters like Sen. Feinstein to keep pushing for a BPA ban against better judgment.”**

Leaving the economic consequences of a ban, which would negatively affect food processors who have already invested into stocking up on the chemical, there is no known equivalent to BPA that is considered safe for use to prevent food spoilage and contamination.

“We’re not only looking at a *classic* example of regulatory overreach here, we’re also looking at a *potentially dangerous* regulatory overreach,” continues Norquist. **“Absent a safe alternative to the chemical, an outright ban of the substance could run the risk of negatively affecting public health in terms of food spoilage and contamination. Basing regulatory regimes not on proven standards and science but on hunches and fearmongering is not looking out for consumers, it is reckless.”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. The Center for Fiscal Accountability, a project of Americans for Tax Reform, seeks to shed a light on government expenditures, and to promote transparency, accountability, and restraint in government finance. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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