



**Statement by Abby King,
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Good Morning,

I'm Abby King, the Toxics Policy Advocate for the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the state's largest environmental advocacy organization, representing more than 12,000 Mainers.

The inside of a can like this one is lined with a dangerous chemical called BPA. As you might imagine, that chemical leaches from the metal lining of the can into the food inside. When babies and toddlers eat things like infant formula, apple sauce, or Dora the Explorer Spaghettios, guess where that BPA ends up? Children eat food from a can or a jar lined with BPA, and their developing bodies absorb the toxin at a dose that causes increased risk of breast and prostate cancer, infertility, diabetes, obesity, ADHD, early puberty in girls, and many other harms later in their livesⁱ.

We can solve this problem. If Maine acted TODAY to replace children's food packaging that contains BPA with safer alternatives, then immediately, TOMORROW, we would eliminate kids' greatest source of exposure to this toxic chemicalⁱⁱ.

We know, and the Maine Board of Environmental Protection knows, that without question, the primary way children under three are exposed to BPA is through food packaging. If you were to feed your preschooler one serving of canned soup once a day for five days, her BPA level would increase by more than 1,000%ⁱⁱⁱ. The rule proposed today would ensure that children under three could eat the same foods they do now, but without being unwittingly exposed to a dangerous endocrine-disrupting chemical.

Studies have shown that when people cut back on or eliminate canned food from their diet, the levels of BPA in their systems plummet. If we replace food packaging that contains BPA with safer alternatives, as we are asking the Board to do today, the level of BPA in the bodies of Maine's children could drop by two-thirds in just three days^{iv}.

Over two billion pounds of BPA is produced in this country every year – so it's no wonder that 95% of Americans have the chemical in their system^v. Study after study has shown that using BPA in food packaging exposes people to levels that are harmful to our health and costly for society. Children under three are so much more vulnerable to developmental and behavioral harms from BPA. It's critical that the Board adopt the rule we present today. We should be doing everything we can to protect Maine kids from toxic chemicals that rob them of a healthy life. The first, easy step is to get BPA out of the foods Maine babies and toddlers are fed every day.



Natural Resources Council of Maine

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ⁱ Breast Cancer Fund, BPA in Kids' Canned Food, A Product Testing Report (Sept 2011).

ⁱⁱ Maine Board of Environmental Protection, Supplemental Basis Statement, "Chapter 882 Designation Of Bisphenol A As A Priority Chemical And Regulation Of Bisphenol A In Children's Products" Dec. 16, 2010.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Consumption of 1 serving of canned soup daily over 5 days was associated with a more than 1000% increase in urinary BPA.** (Carwile J.L. et al., "Canned soup consumption and urinary Bisphenol A; a random crossover trial" JAMA 306, 2218-20, 2011.

^{iv} **BPA mean levels were reduced by 66% when participants removed canned or plastic-packaged foods from their diet for three days.** (Rudel, Ruthann et al, "Food Packaging and Bisphenol A and Bis(s-Ethyhexyl) Phthalate Exposure: Findings from a Dietary Intervention" Environmental Health Perspectives, v 119, July 2011.)

^v Calafet, Antonia M. et al, "Urinary Concentrations of Bisphenol A and 4-Nonylphenol in a Human Reference Population" Environmental Health Perspectives, v 113, April 2005.