

MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP

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MEETING DATE: October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011

SUBJECT: Proposed Ban on Bisphenol A

AGENDA NUMBER OR TOPIC: R-4

FOR: X AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_ THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM

NAME: Keri Morin Handaly

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY (**In lieu of attendance**)

As both a resident with a family in Multnomah County, including a young child, and a professional in the environmental field, I support and applaud Multnomah County's effort to take action towards banning Bisphenol A. This is a substance with decades of documented known harmful effects to human health, in particular small children, yet the EPA has been exceptionally slow to take action to ensure that exposure levels are set based on current data. Given that there are national precedents at state and county levels, it seems reasonable for the County to consider its own ban to support its mission to protect the health and well-being of its residents.

While I echo the County's concern over the continued exposure of children to BPA from bottles and sippy cups, I caution the County to review the scientific data on the potential or known harmful effects of BPA substitutes. Many substitutes are in the same chemical family and are also known to be estrogen-mimicking substances. I support this ban if the County has data that demonstrates that the primary manufacturers of these banned baby products will have access to and actually use a safer alternative to BPA. The worst type of public policy failures occur when we fail to change policy in a manner that actually leads to enhanced public protection; yet the public believes that a safe solution has been identified.

Finally, there are existing alternative products that are known to be safe, but that are cost prohibitive, such as glass and stainless steel bottles. I urge the County to look for innovative solutions through manufacturing partnerships and/or grants to make these safer alternatives available to County residents, in particular, those that can least afford the "environmental"

alternative and those who are also likely to be less educated regarding the health risks of BPA containers.

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**IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Address the County Commissioners from the presenter table microphones. Please limit your comments to **3 minutes**.
3. State your name for the official record.
4. If written documentation is presented, please furnish one copy to the Board Clerk.

**IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:**

1. Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk.
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.