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**MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP**

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Please complete this form and return to the Board Clerk  
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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: Stacy Michaelson

ADDRESS: PO Box 14914

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Portland, OR 97293

PHONE:        DAYS: 503-236-9754 EVES: 503-508-8153

EMAIL: Stacy@cffo.org FAX:       

WRITTEN TESTIMONY (In lieu of attendance)

I will submit my public testimony in person

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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:**

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2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.



# Children First for Oregon

*Speaking Up for Kids Since 1991*

To: Multnomah County Board of Commissioners  
From: Stacy Michaelson, Children First for Oregon  
Date: October 27, 2011  
Re: Ban on Bisphenol-A

Chair Cogen and Commissioners:

I am Stacy Michaelson, Policy Associate for Children First for Oregon. Children First's mission is to make Oregon a place where all children are healthy and safe and have the support needed to thrive. We believe that all children deserve a healthy start in life, and that's why I'm here to testify in support of a BPA ban in Multnomah County.

The proposed ban is an important step in guaranteeing the health of children in our area. More than 200 scientific studies have linked very low doses of BPA to prostate and breast cancer, obesity, altered brain development, cardiac disease, diabetes, and early puberty. Because children's bodies are growing and developing, they are more vulnerable to the effects of toxic chemicals than adults. Even small amounts of a chemical can impact a child's ability to reach his or her full potential.

Children are our most vulnerable citizens to toxic chemicals, but current laws don't adequately protect them. Current safety regulations for beverage containers designed for kids inadequately address the presence of chemicals linked to harmful health and developmental impacts for children. Further, this is a health equity issue as low-income families in urban areas are often more reliant upon stores that studies show are least likely to carry BPA-free infant formula or baby bottles. When alternatives to BPA are available, feasible, and already in use by manufacturers, making the decision to eliminate harmful products for the safety of all children should be a simple one.

Currently, there's little or no government oversight of toxic chemicals in consumer products, especially children's products. The proposed BPA ban will help protect kids by correcting the current regulatory loopholes. We want to ensure that every child in Multnomah County has the opportunity to develop into a healthy and happy adult, able to give back to our community. This ban is an important step in that direction; please vote to keep our kids healthy.

Thank you.

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

NAME: Senator Diane Rosenbaum

ADDRESS: 900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR

CITY/STATE/ZIP: Salem, OR 97301

PHONE: - DAYS: 503-986-1700

EVES: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: SEN.diane.Rosenbaum@state.or.us FAX: 503-986-1080

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

1. Please complete this form and submit to the Board Clerk.
2. Public comment on non-agenda items is at the beginning of the board meeting, immediately after the consent agenda vote. Public comment on current agenda items, occurs at the end of the presentation of that item. Submittal of this form at the beginning of the meeting is appreciated.
3. Individuals making public comment will be called up in the order these forms are received. The Chair may call on Invited Guests or Elected Officials to speak first.
4. When your name is called, come forward & be seated at the Presenter's table.
5. When it is your turn, start by stating your name for the record. Make sure to speak clearly into the microphones. All meetings are recorded.
6. Public comment is limited to **3 minutes** per person, but the Chair has the authority to shorten time, based on the number of folks testifying.
7. If you wish to present written documentation with your oral comments, please bring 7 copies and submit to the Board Clerk, who will distribute them to the Commissioners. Your testimony will be kept permanently.

**IF YOU WISH TO SUBMIT WRITTEN INSTEAD OF ORAL COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:**

1. Please complete this form along with your written testimony and return to the Board Clerk at the meeting, or submit by e-mail at: [lynda.grow@multco.us](mailto:lynda.grow@multco.us)
2. Written testimony will be entered into the official record.



**Diane Rosenbaum**  
**Senate Majority Leader**

October 27, 2011

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner Jeff Cogen, Chair

Commissioner Deborah Kafoury

Commissioner Loretta Smith

Commissioner Judy Shiprack

Commissioner Diane McKeel

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600

Portland, OR 97214-3587

RE: Multnomah County Board of Health Consideration of Policy Order 101111: Proposed Ban on Bisphenol A (BPA).

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I write to you in strong support of the proposed policy restricting the sale of all reusable beverage containers and reusable infant and child beverage containers containing bisphenol A (BPA) in Multnomah County. In the Legislature, many of my colleagues and I have supported a statewide ban of this toxin in children's products. As a Chief Sponsor of Senate Bill 695, which passed the State Senate in 2011 with overwhelming bipartisan support, I applaud all of you for bringing this needed protection to Multnomah County residents and for addressing this harmful health concern.

BPA is a hormone disrupting chemical that presents real danger to the health of our community. More than 200 studies on animals and humans show links between BPA and poor brain development, early-onset puberty, low sperm count, breast and prostate cancer, polycystic ovary syndrome, diabetes, and heart disease. Studies from the CDC demonstrate that young children and low-income groups are disproportionately exposed to BPA. All families, no matter their income level, should have the same access to safe products for their families. Without policies like this, there is no way for consumers to be sure that any product is truly BPA-free. Passing this ban in Multnomah County will get us one step closer to protections that are needed at the state and federal level.

Consumers are already demanding BPA-free products for their kids and themselves, and the market is responding – but not fast enough. While major retailers offer many BPA-free products, we know BPA products are still available at a number of discount stores. We also know that the community supports this ban: Susan Beal, a mother, advocate, and constituent of mine in Senate District 21, collected over 1,000 signatures to support a BPA ban in one week's time.

The science is clear and overwhelming, and with proven safe alternatives to these products, it's time to act. Thank you again for hearing this issue and your dedicated work for Oregon. I hope you can unanimously support this policy to protect health and safety in Multnomah County.

Sincerely,

*Diane Rosenbaum*

Diane Rosenbaum

State Senator, District 21

Oregon Senate Majority Leader

State Senator, District 21  
900 Court St. NE S-223 Salem OR, 97301  
(503) 986-1700  
[sen.dianerosenbaum@state.or.us](mailto:sen.dianerosenbaum@state.or.us)

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**SUBJECT:** Proposed Ban on Bisphenol A

**AGENDA NUMBER OR TOPIC:** R-4

**FOR:** X **AGAINST:**            **THE ABOVE AGENDA ITEM**

**NAME:** Keri Morin Handaly

**ADDRESS:** 3914 NE 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave

**CITY/STATE/ZIP:** Portland, OR 97213  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DAYS:** 503-734-5604 **EVES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** Keri.handaly@greshamoregon.gov **FAX:** \_\_\_\_\_

→ **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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Before the  
**Multnomah County Board of Health**  
October 27th, 2011

**Policy Order 101111 to Ban Bisphenol-A**

Testimony of  
Lewis Pitt, Jr., Government Affairs & Planning Director  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Good morning, Chair Cogen and members of the Multnomah County Board of Health. My name is Lewis Pitt, Jr., of the Wal/tala people of the Columbia. I am the Director of Government Affairs, Planning, and Tribal Relations for the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Thank you for proposing action to protect our children from drinking bisphenol-A. Many of them live in your county because of their parents work; Multnomah County has the 3d highest number of Warm Springs tribal members after Jefferson and Wasco.

At Warm Springs, we cherish water as the first gift from the Creator. We start all of our ceremonies with water and thankfulness for water. We start all of our meals with a toast, as you would say, to water, by saying "Chush", and drinking water before starting to eat. Our word for water, "chush", is also a deeply felt expression of thanksgiving for all that water does for us. We are proud of our clean water, flowing from the mountains through our lands, down to the Deschutes River and the Columbia.

Now we learn that our precious young ones have had their water sullied for decades by a strange chemical, bisphenol-A. We learn that it is something like estrogen; an endocrine disrupter that in very small amounts contributes to obesity, cancer, thyroid problems and other problems in our children. This chemical is in the baby bottles and plastic cups that our children drink from. We do not understand why any baby bottles and cups and water containers should contain such a chemical.

We already have a deadly epidemic of diabetes and a high incidence of obesity, which we have recently understood contributes to diabetes. In recent years, we are also seeing an alarming amount of early sexual development in girls on the Reservation. We do not know why this should happen. The Reservation water supply is the Deschutes River and there is no upstream industry producing BPA. Sippy cups and baby bottles are the only known source of this chemical going into our infants.

Policy Order 101111 addresses a serious problem, how to protect our children from a cause of disease. It will reduce a source of contamination in our precious children. We ask the Board of Health to help us to bring our children's health problems under control and prevent further harm by approving Policy Order 101111.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you with our concerns.

Hello Chair Cogen and County Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Frack and I am here on behalf of the Environmental Working Group, my employer, which is a national non-profit organization based in Washington, DC. You may not have heard of us, but we sponsored the BPA legislation that just passed in California a few weeks back.

As you of course know, Bisphenol-A is a dangerous petrochemical and synthetic estrogen used to harden plastic. Our state has failed several times to pass a ban similar to the one proposed by Chair Cogen. As a Multnomah County resident and mother of two native Oregonians who are now 8 and 5, I couldn't be more pleased to see the leadership shown here on this public health issue. In my opinion, there aren't enough political leaders today who are willing to step up and do the right thing when protecting public health is spun - inaccurately - as anti-business. Thank you for leading, even when it's tough.

Since you've by now considered this issue thoroughly, I want to make just 3 points today:

1. **The science shows BPA is bad for our health**
2. **Multnomah County can't wait for the federal or state government to act**
3. **Alternatives are available, but not all Oregonians can access them**

**1. The science shows BPA is bad for our health**

In 2009, EWG published a groundbreaking report that for the first time ***detected BPA in the umbilical cord blood of American infants***. This research added to our knowledge that toxic pollution begins in the womb, and every day, in Oregon and across the country, babies are coming into the world pre-polluted.

While the science continues to develop, there is sufficient evidence to ban it as proposed in this ban. More than 200 peer-reviewed studies have linked BPA to a host of serious and costly health problems including, birth defects, prostate and breast cancer, infertility, early puberty, brain and heart disorders. And of course, babies and young children are most vulnerable to endocrine-disrupting chemicals like BPA because their bodies are developing and their food intake-body weight ratio magnifies chemical impacts.

There is now a broad and growing consensus within the scientific and public health communities that bisphenol-A threatens children's health and that exposures should be avoided whenever possible. This consensus was echoed in The President's Cancer Panel Report, released last year, recommending Americans avoid BPA and phthalates in order to decrease cancer risk. And earlier in 2011, the Breast Cancer Fund and Silent Spring Institute reported that Americans can, in fact, reduce their BPA exposure by nearly 60% if they stop drinking and eating out of BPA containers. We think they should, and this ban will help.



## **2. Multnomah County can't wait for the federal or state government to act**

Our state government has of course proven unable or unwilling (or both) to ban BPA, and the federal government has done little more, which industry uses as a reason to persuade local legislators to also do nothing. Even so, 10 states – including California earlier this fall – and several counties in other states have stepped up and banned BPA. Waiting for other governments to act when something that kids are widely exposed to is dangerous for them isn't a successful public health strategy. What you're doing today is.

## **3. Alternatives are available, thanks to consumer awareness and pressure, but not all Multnomah County residents can access them**

BPA-free baby bottles and sippy cups are already widely available and affordable—but without action from our lawmakers, we can't be sure that all Multnomah County residents will have access to them. This ban ensures that every parent in our county can walk into any store and have no doubt that the baby bottles and sippy cups they purchase are safe for their children. As they should.

**I'd like to conclude** by referring back briefly to the federal government, specifically the FDA, which regulates BPA. When the FDA and the National Toxicology Program, the NTP, raised some concern about BPA in 2010, what they were flagging is concern specifically that BPA exposure during childhood could impact the developing brain, behavior, prostate gland of fetuses and infant children. "Some concern" is the mid-point of FDA's five levels of concern, and interestingly, that's the same level of concern that the NTP determined was appropriate for fetal exposures to amphetamines.

On that note, thank you for your time and leadership protecting our children's vulnerable health.