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Dr. Margaret A. Hamburg  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
10903 New Hampshire Ave  
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

October 7, 2009

Dear Commissioner Hamburg,

Our organizations are deeply concerned about the ongoing use of bisphenol A (BPA), particularly as a food and beverage packaging additive, given the strong scientific evidence that low dose exposure to BPA can disrupt healthy hormone functions and lead to a host of adverse health effects. We share the concerns raised by the FDA Science Advisory Board that the FDA's 2008 evaluation of BPA overly relied on a few select industry funded studies and arbitrarily excluded many independent studies on the low dose impacts of BPA.

The undersigned organizations lack confidence in the current review in light of the poor quality of the 2008 evaluation facilitated by Dr. Mitchell Cheeseman. Dr. Cheeseman's presentation at the August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Science Advisory Board, where he indicated that FDA would continue to rely on the two highly criticized industry-funded Tyl *et al.* studies to reaffirm the point of departure values and thus the NOAEL, did little to allay our concerns.

In order to restore public confidence in FDA's review process, the re-evaluation of BPA must be based on the full scope of evidence and the evaluation should be conducted free of inappropriate industry influence. As revealed in Milwaukee's *Journal Sentinel* on May 16, 2009, Dr. Cheeseman and many others within his department relied heavily on direct input from BPA trade association lobbyists when evaluating new scientific papers on BPA's health impacts and exposure rates. This inappropriately close relationship was maintained even as independent

scientists and public health advocates were denied the same access to these key FDA employees.

We urge you to take swift action to ensure that the 2009 review takes a truly fresh look at all of the science on BPA and takes into account previous and current conflicts of interest. It is equally important that the review recognizes that the majority of published studies on low dose exposure to BPA are generated by government and academic scientists, not industry-funded scientists. Approximately 90% of government-funded studies find an effect from BPA at environmentally relevant doses.

We look forward to a timely response to our serious concerns raised in this letter. Time is of the essence and the entire nation - including national breast cancer organizations, nurses' and physician's groups, faith-based groups, mothers' groups, consumer protection organizations and many others - is watching. How FDA handles this re-evaluation will speak volumes about the new Administration's commitment to raising the credibility and public confidence in FDA's mission to protect human health over corporate interests.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. Please direct your response to Bobbi Chase Wilding, BPA Coordinator for the National Workgroup for Safe Markets (518-708-3875, [clean.bobbi@gmail.com](mailto:clean.bobbi@gmail.com)). Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bobbi Chase Wilding  
BPA Coordinator  
National Workgroup for Safe Markets  
323 Bonnyview Lane  
Schenectady, NY 12306

Pamela Miller  
Executive Director  
**Alaska Community Action on Toxics**  
Anchorage, AK

Rebecca Clouse MS, RN  
Environmental Health Liaison  
**American Nurses Association**  
Silver Spring, MD

Janet Nudelman  
Director of Program and Policy  
**Breast Cancer Fund**  
San Francisco, CA

Joan Sheehan  
Co-President  
**Capital Region Action Against Breast Cancer**  
Albany, NY

Mike Schade  
PVC Campaign Coordinator  
**Center for Health, Environment and Justice**  
Falls Church, VA

Barbara Warren  
Executive Director  
**Citizens' Environmental Coalition**  
Albany, NY

Cynthia Wilson  
Events Coordinator  
**Citizens For A Clean Environment**  
Cobleskill, NY

Kathy Curtis  
Policy Director  
**Clean New York**  
Schenectady, NY

Lynn Thorp  
National Campaigns Coordinator  
**Clean Water Action**  
Washington, DC

Sarah Uhl  
Coordinator  
**Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut**  
Hartford, CT

Sharyle Patton  
Director, Health and Environment Program  
**Commonweal**  
Bolinas, CA

Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener  
Director, Interreligious Eco-Justice Network  
**Connecticut's Interfaith Power & Light**  
West Hartford, CT

Saima Anjam  
Program Associate  
**Environmental Advocates of New York**  
Albany, NY

Judith Robinson  
Program Director,  
**Environmental Health Fund**  
Marlboro, VT

Mike Belliveau  
Executive Director  
**Environmental Health Strategy Center**  
Bangor, ME

Max Muller  
Program Development  
**Environment Illinois**  
Chicago, IL

Judith M. Anderson  
President  
**Environmental Justice Action Group of  
Western New York (EJAG)**  
Buffalo, NY

Marian Feinberg  
Environmental Health Coordinator  
**For a Better Bronx**  
Bronx, NY

Charlotte Wells  
Galveston Baykeeper  
**Galveston Baykeeper**  
Seabrook, TX

Tom Lent  
Policy Director  
**Healthy Building Network**  
Berkeley, CA

Claire L Barnett  
Executive Director  
**Healthy Schools Network**  
Albany, NY

Lin Kaatz Chary, PhD, MPH  
**Indiana Toxics Action**  
Gary, IN

Kathleen Schuler, MPH  
Co-Director, Healthy Legacy  
**Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**  
Minneapolis, MN

Tessa Hill  
President  
**Kids for Saving Earth**  
North Branch, MN

Connie Parr  
President  
**Learning Disabilities Association of America**  
Pittsburgh, PA

Stephen Boese  
Executive Director  
**Learning Disabilities Association of NYS**  
Latham, NY

Ryan Tipping-Spitz  
Environmental Organizer  
**Maine People's Alliance**  
Bangor, ME

Jenny Levin  
Program Associate  
**Maryland Public Interest Research Group**  
Baltimore, MD

Russ Haven, Esq.  
Legislative Counsel  
**New York Public Interest Research Group**  
Albany, NY

Rick Melberth  
Director of Federal Regulatory Policy  
**OMB Watch**  
Washington, DC

Mari Anne Gest  
Executive Director  
**Oregon Center for Environmental Health**  
Portland OR

Renee Hackenmiller-Paradis  
Program Director  
**Oregon Environmental Council**  
Portland, OR

Dona Hippert  
President  
**Oregon Toxics Alliance**  
Eugene, OR

Kristen Welker-Hood, Sc. D, MSN, RN  
Director, Environment and Health Programs  
**Physicians for Social Responsibility**  
Washington, DC

Martha Arguello  
Executive Director  
**Physicians for Social Responsibility – LA**  
Los Angeles, CA

Eboni Neal Cochran  
Director  
**Rubbertown Environmental ACTION (REACT)**  
Louisville, KY

Judy Braiman  
President  
**Rochesterians Against the Misuses of Pesticides**  
Rochester, NY

Joseph A. Gardella, Jr., Ph.D.  
Professor and Larkin Chair of Chemistry  
**University at Buffalo, SUNY** (for identification purposes only)  
Buffalo, NY

Liz Hitchcock  
Public Health Advocate  
**U.S. PIRG**  
Washington, DC

Erin Switalski  
Acting Executive Director  
**Women's Voices for the Earth**  
Missoula, MT

CC: Joshua Sharfstein, MD, Principal Deputy Commissioner  
Jesse Goodman, MD, MPH, Chief Scientist and Deputy Commissioner for Science and Public Health