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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 17th 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*). Thank you.

Sincerely,

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