



NORTH AMERICAN METAL PACKAGING ALLIANCE, INC.
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September 14, 2011

Via E-Mail

Letters to the Editor
The Washington Post
1150 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20071

Re: Recent Article on Food Packaging

Dear Editor:

On September 13, 2011, *The Washington Post* published an article (*What's That You're Eating? Maybe a Nasty Surprise*) written by *Consumer Reports Insights* about substances that may be found in foods and food packaging of which consumers should be aware, including bisphenol A (BPA) found in plastic bottles and canned food linings.

Unfortunately, the *Consumer Reports* information is outdated and not representative of the current scientific research. Most importantly, the article fails to mention the latest research conducted jointly by a team of scientists from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Funded entirely by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this landmark human exposure study (Teegaurden, *et al.*) determined the level of BPA found in the human blood stream was non-detectable. Based on that finding, the EPA research team concluded that BPA is unlikely to cause health effects.

Certainly, this is more relevant and current than the old survey included in the published article. With all due respect for the Consumers Union and *Consumer Reports*, as valuable resources for information on consumer products, the organization is not a scientific body with the technical expertise to effectively assess the hazard or risks from complex chemical substances. That is why government regulatory agencies exist in countries around the world, staffed with scientific experts, whose job is to test and evaluate potentially hazardous substances to determine their safety for people.

In the past two years, FDA, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and international scientific and regulatory bodies in Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan have conducted comprehensive reviews of BPA's safety and reached the same fundamental conclusion: current levels of exposure to BPA are safe and do not pose a risk to human health.

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The North American Metal Packaging Alliance is an organization whose objectives are to support risk-based regulations in North America; influence regulation in other geographies, provide customers with needed information regarding well-founded technologies, and advocate risk-based decision-making in technology decisions.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Rost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

Dr. John M. Rost
Chairman
North American Metal Packaging Alliance, Inc.