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July 8, 2014

The Honorable Edward Markey
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

We are writing to thank you for introducing the Ban Poisonous Additives Act of 2014. The 16 labor union and environmental organizational partners of the BlueGreen Alliance strongly support this common sense approach to removing Bisphenol A (BPA) from food packaging. We appreciate that the waivers in the proposed legislation will allow the food and beverage industry to move away from Bisphenol A as safer alternatives become available and to inform the American people when a food or drink container contains BPA. It is especially important to us that the legislation will assure that the chemicals that are used to replace BPA are safer for the American workers who process canned food and beverages and the children, women and men who eat and drink them.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 93 percent of Americans have detectable levels of BPA in their bodies. More than 300 independent studies link BPA exposure to breast and prostate cancer, obesity, attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder, altered development of the brain and immune system, lowered sperm counts and early-onset puberty. Very small amounts of BPA can affect normal development during the prenatal period and the first two years of life and lead to chronic health problems that become evident many years later.

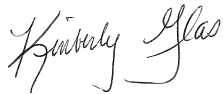
Twelve states have already banned BPA from baby bottles and sippy cups. Following the lead of these states, retailers including CVS, Gerber, Kroger, Safeway and Toys R Us have removed BPA-containing infant products from their shelves. In response, FDA ended its authorization of BPA in baby bottles and sippy cups in July 2012. A year later, in response to a petition from then Representative Markey, the FDA also banned the use of BPA in infant formula packaging.

But the problem of BPA exposure is not limited to the now-restricted products. Bisphenol A is also in polycarbonate (#7) plastic bottles and food storage containers and in epoxy resins that coat the lining of metal food and beverage cans. Your legislation would, over time, remove BPA from all food containers and all of the

foods that pregnant women and young children may ingest. In addition, the Ban Poisonous Additives Act will ensure that the chemicals used to replace BPA are safer. And, for the first time, the definition of “safer” used by the Food and Drug Administration will include workers as a vulnerable population.

Thank you again for your leadership in improving the safety of American products and the health of the American people.

Sincerely,



Kim Glas
Executive Director

BlueGreen Alliance Partner Organizations

United Steelworkers
Sierra Club
Communication Workers of America
Natural Resources Defense Council
Service Workers International Union
National Wildlife Federation
Utility Workers Union of America
Union of Concerned Scientists
American Federation of Teachers
Amalgamated Transit Union
United Auto Workers
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentice of the Plumbing and Pipe fitting Industry
of the United States and Canada
Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Union
Environmental Defense Fund Action
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers