Bisphenol A, commonly known as BPA, is an industrial chemical used to make polycarbonate plastic, which is often found in baby bottles and sippy cups. BPA is also used in the resin lining of food and beverage containers, including infant formula cans. The extensive use of BPA in everyday products has resulted in widespread exposure to Americans, including infants and young children.

BPA interferes with the ability of hormones to function properly, and has been linked to cancerous changes of the prostate and mammary glands. BPA also can alter brain development and cause early puberty and infertility. Exposure early in life while organs are developing can cause permanent and lifelong harm.

Although baby bottle manufacturers and infant formula companies are gradually phasing out the use of BPA, they are not required to label products that still contain the chemical, so parents remain in the dark about which products are BPA-free. SB 797 would prohibit the use of BPA in food and beverage containers for infants or children three years of age or younger. Minnesota, Connecticut and Chicago have already passed similar bans.

The National Marine Fisheries Service is accepting public comments on the petition until March 23rd.

What to do
Send a message urging your state senator to vote "Yes" on SB 797.

Tell state legislators not to
sacrifice California's environment during budget negotiations

California's budget news has gone from bad to worse, with lower than expected revenues and locked-in spending formulas that reduce flexibility in challenging economic times. In addition, the failure of five special election ballot measures last month made the budget hole about $6 billion larger than if the measures had passed. While clean energy policies can be an economic engine during this difficult time, some industry groups continue to try to exploit the budget crisis and struggling economy by demanding delays or weakening of California's landmark environmental laws.

Last month Governor Schwarzenegger presented a revised budget that proposes reorganizing many of California's agencies and departments to increase efficiency and save money. Some of the proposals make sense and would eliminate duplicative administrative tasks being performed at different agencies. Others, however, are misguided and would threaten California's position as a national and international leader in public health and energy efficiency.

California legislators are currently reviewing the governor's latest budget and developing their own recommendations. Now is the time for legislators to propose alternative funding solutions, including fees on polluters, to keep California's proven environmental programs moving forward. They should also propose sensible steps to reorganize state government and increase efficiency, while maintaining California's world renowned system of independent boards and commissions and rejecting demands to weaken environmental policy.

What to do
Send a message urging state legislators to develop a responsible budget that maintains California's environmental leadership.

Take Action Now

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a nonprofit environmental organization with 1.2 million members and online activists, and a staff of scientists, attorneys and environmental experts. Our mission is to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things.
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