



Bob Miller, President and CEO
Albertson's
250 E Parkcenter Blvd
Boise, ID 83706-3999

May 26, 2016

Dear Mr. Miller,

We are writing to follow up on our correspondence and recent report, Buyer Beware, investigating bisphenol A (BPA) in canned foods. We appreciate the response Albertsons submitted to our survey, which we enclosed in the report, available online at www.ToxicFoodCans.org.

We are concerned that the health of pregnant women, young children, and adolescents may be harmed from exposure to BPA. Credible scientific evidence suggests it may contribute to a host of harmful health effects, including breast and prostate cancer, infertility, type-2 diabetes, obesity, asthma and attention deficit disorder. Other studies have demonstrated the capacity of BPA to migrate from packaging into food and then into people, raising concerns about exposures to low, but biologically relevant levels of BPA.

We are pleased that Albertsons has adopted a policy to reduce the use of BPA in its Own Brand canned foods. We commend this goal, but our recent investigation found BPA still commonly found in canned foods sold by Albertsons.

Our investigation found BPA in the lining of 50% of the Albertsons products sampled (eight out of 16 from Albertsons, Randalls, Safeway). Albertsons is not alone in facing this challenge. Collectively, 62 percent of private-label food cans (71 out of 114) from retailers analyzed in the study tested positive for BPA-based epoxy resins. This included Albertsons (including Randalls and Safeway), Dollar General, Dollar Tree (including Family Dollar), Gordon Food Service, Kroger, Loblaws, Meijer, Publix, Target, Trader Joe's, and Walmart. In total, 67% of all brand name and private-label cans sampled tested positive for BPA.

The report also found that retailers and national brands that are phasing out BPA could be replacing it with regrettable substitutes. Eighteen percent of retailers' private-label foods and 36 percent of national brands were lined with a PVC-based copolymer that is made from highly hazardous chemicals including vinyl chloride, a known human carcinogen, and which is often softened with phthalates, hormone-disrupting chemicals that can migrate into food. Thirty-three percent of retailers' private-label foods and 51 percent of national brands were lined with acrylic based polymers. Of the cans tested, 39 percent had a polystyrene-acrylic combination, of concern because styrene is considered a possible carcinogen.

Over the past two months since the report release, over 100,000 people have signed online petitions encouraging another grocery chain, Kroger, to eliminate BPA and ensure substitutes are safe through our website and those of our partners at HealthyStuff.org, Care2, SumofUs.org and the Breast Cancer Fund. Just last week, over 30,000 people signed our online petition on SumofUs.org.

Recommended action on BPA in canned foods

We respectfully request that Albertsons strengthen and expand its policy to identify, phase-out and safely substitute BPA in private-label and brand name canned foods sold in your stores. Such a policy should include the following critical policy elements:

- 1) Commit to eliminating and safely substituting BPA from all your food cans (including both private-label and brand name canned food) and other food packaging and establishing clear public timelines and benchmarks for your transition to safer alternatives.
- 2) Ensure substitutes are safe. Work with suppliers to conduct and publicly report on the results of "alternatives assessments," using the GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals or a similar third-party tool for assessing the safety of your can linings, to avoid "regrettable substitution".
- 3) Label all chemicals used in can liners, including BPA or BPA alternatives; and require that your suppliers of food can linings fully disclose safety data, so you can provide a higher level of transparency to consumers.
- 4) Adopt a comprehensive chemical policy to safely replace other chemicals of concern in your products and packaging. For example scientific research has identified food as the number one source of exposure to hormone-disrupting phthalates.

As the second largest grocery chain in America, we believe there are real opportunities for Albertsons to show leadership in eliminating BPA and other chemicals of concern in your supply chain, building on your 2011 policy. By strengthening and expanding your policy to phase out BPA in canned foods, you have an opportunity to improve the environmental health and sustainability of products, bolster your company's reputation, avoid future regulatory restrictions, and remain responsive to customers' concern about the safety of food and other products sold in your stores.

We would welcome the opportunity to publicly praise Albertsons for taking an industry lead on this issue as we have for other retailers making similar commitments in the past. In the meantime, we expect that the already-strong consumer support for our campaign will increase over the coming weeks as we take our message to an even larger audience.

We would appreciate a written response to our letter so that we can update our members and the public on your company's position on these critical issues.

We would also be pleased to meet with you in the coming weeks to discuss this issue and your response. We'd be happy to provide you with additional information to help you make this timely transition. Please contact Mike Schade at Mind the Store at (646) 783-3477 or mikeschade@saferchemicals.org for assistance.

Thank you for your consideration, and for being attentive to market trends and your customers desire for safer products. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



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CC: Chris Ratto, Director of Sustainability, Albertsons