

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Dr. Janet Woodcock
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
10903 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002

Dear Acting Commissioner Woodcock,

Thank you for making toxic metals in food eaten by babies and young children a priority. We agree that babies and young children should be prioritized because their smaller bodies and metabolism make them more vulnerable to the harmful effects of these contaminants.

While we believe that setting draft action levels will send a powerful signal to the food industry to do better, we urge FDA to move more swiftly to set draft levels for all toxic elements, to move more swiftly to finalize action levels, and to set clear deadlines for industry reformulation.

Under FDA's proposal, final levels for some metals may not be set until 2024, and deadlines have not been proposed at all for two metals, mercury and cadmium. The plan released by FDA would only set draft levels for these two metals by 2024, if not later.

While we share FDA's commitment to reducing the presence of toxic metals in food consumed by children, we urge FDA to set clear and more urgent deadlines for action.

Each day, 10,000 babies start eating solid food. If the FDA waits until 2024 or later to set final levels food companies must meet, millions of babies will be exposed to metals that threaten their health and development.

We look forward to working with FDA to quickly setting action levels that protect babies and young children from toxic metals.

Signed,

Advanced Pediatrics
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Sustainable Business Council
Arizona PIRG
Because Health
Black Millennials 4 Flint
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners

CALPIRG

Campaign for Healthier Solutions

Center for Environmental Health

Center for Food Safety

Childhood Lead Action Project

Children's Environmental Health Network

Citizens Alliance for a Sustainable Englewood

City of Champaign Township

Civically, Inc.

Clean and Healthy New York

Clean Label Project

Clean Production Action

Clearya

Columbia Food Policy Committee

Community Based Organization Partners

Community Engaged Studio of Flint

CONNPIRG

Consumer Reports

CoPIRG

Defend Our Health

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice

Dr. Yolanda Whyte Pediatrics

Earthjustice

Ecology Center

Environmental & Public Health Consulting

Environmental Defense Fund

Environmental Health Trust

Environmental Working Group

Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety (FACTS)

Farm Fare

First Year Cleveland

Flint Center for Health Equity Solutions

Flint Public Health Youth Academy

Flint Rising

Florida PIRG

Food & Water Watch

Georgia PIRG

www.gmoscience.org

Harambee House, inc

Healthy Babies Bright Futures

Healthy Schools Network

Homewood Children's Village

Illinois PIRG

Latinas Contra Cancer

Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama

Learning Disabilities Association of Alaska

Learning Disabilities Association of America
Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas
Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut
Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia
Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois
Learning Disabilities Association of Maine
Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland
LDA of Michigan
Learning Disabilities Association of Nebraska
Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey
Learning Disabilities Association of New York State
Learning Disabilities Association of North Carolina
Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma
Learning Disabilities Association of Pennsylvania
Learning Disabilities Association of South Carolina
Learning Disabilities Association of Tennessee
Learning Disabilities Association of Texas
Learning Disabilities Association of Utah
Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin
LDA Minnesota
Mamavation
Maryland PIRG
MASSPIRG
Moms Across America
Moms Clean Air Force
MoPIRG
National Association of Environmental Medicine
National Center for Healthy Housing
National Women's Health Network
NC Child
NCPIRG
NJPIRG
NMPIRG
Ohio PIRG
One Voice
Oregon Environmental Council
OSPIRG
PennPIRG
People & Pollinators Action Network
PIRG in Michigan
Pure Earth
Safer Chemicals Healthy Families
Safer States
SafetyNEST Science
Saul's Light Foundation
Science and Environmental Health Network

Sierra Club
Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
Sprout San Francisco
Stories for Action
TexPIRG
The Arc of the United States
Toxic Free NC
US PIRG
UPSTREAM
WashPIRG
Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center
WISPIRG
Women for a Healthy Environment
Women's Voices for the Earth
Wu Yee Children's Services
Yumi