

James Quincey, Chief Executive Officer
The Coca-Cola Company
1 Coca Cola Plaza NW
Atlanta, GA 30313



Re: Cancer-Causing Chemicals Found in Some of Your Plastic Bottles and Beverage Products

Dear Mr. Quincey,

The undersigned environmental, health, justice, and consumer protection organizations urge you to take immediate action to require your suppliers to eliminate the use of antimony and cobalt compounds as processing aids or additives in PET plastic bottles used to package any beverage brands owned by The Coca-Cola Company. Collectively, our organizations represent over 4.65 million supporters across the US and beyond.

Chronic antimony exposure increases the lifetime risk of cancer and liver disease, and risk factors for heart disease and diabetes. Children are especially vulnerable because they are exposed to antimony at more than twice the level of adults, on average. Moreover, the continued use of antimony contributes to environmental racism, since federal government data show that Latinx and Black communities in the US are disproportionately exposed to antimony.

Cobalt compounds used as PET plastic additives are probable human carcinogens and elevated exposure to cobalt can be toxic to the nervous system, thyroid, and heart.

Recent testing by an independent laboratory revealed the presence of antimony in every single plastic-bottled beverage tested. In forty percent of the products tested, antimony was detected at concentrations exceeding the California public health goal for drinking water of 1 ppb, including the Coke, Diet Coke, and Honest Tea with Lemonade brands owned by The Coca-Cola Company. Cobalt was detected in forty percent of the samples tested, including the Coca-Cola products Honest Tea with Lemonade, Powerade Fruit Punch, and Simply Lemonade. Defend Our Health commissioned this beverage testing to assess the presence of antimony and cobalt, which peer-reviewed research shows are known to migrate from PET plastic bottles

Safer alternatives to antimony and cobalt are widely available and should be adopted forthwith. **We therefore urge The Coca-Cola Company to require its PET plastic bottle suppliers to end use of any antimony or cobalt compounds as processing aids or additives by January 1, 2023.**

We stand ready to praise Coca-Cola's market leadership in taking action to eliminate chemicals of high concern from its plastic supply chain. Please contact Maya Rommwatt at (207) 699-0805 or mrommwatt@defendourhealth.org to arrange a time to discuss this matter further. We look forward to your timely response and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Defend Our Health

Able Differently

Aotearoa Plastic Pollution Alliance

Association for Farmers Rights Defense, AFRD

Azul

Beyond Plastics

Beyond Plastics Greater Boston

Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (BCPP)

California Safe Schools

Center for Environmental Health

Center for Food Safety

Centre De Recherche Et D'Education Pour Le Developpement (CREPD)

Centre for Financial Accountability

CESTA Friends of the Earth El Salvador

Earth Ethics, Inc.

Ecology Center Ann Arbor

Ecology Center Berkeley

Ecosoum NGO

Environment and Social Development Organization

Environmental Defence Canada

Fenceline Watch

FoCo Trash Mob

FreshWater Accountability Project

Front Commun Pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protèges

Gallifrey Foundation

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light

Greenpeace USA

Health Environment and Climate Action Foundation (HECAF360)

Humusz Szövetség

Lahore Conservation Society

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Learning Disabilities Association of Alabama

Learning Disabilities Association of Arkansas

Learning Disabilities Association of California

Learning Disabilities Association of Connecticut

Learning Disabilities Association of Delaware

Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia

Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois

Learning Disabilities Association of Indiana

Learning Disabilities Association of Maine

Learning Disabilities Association of Maryland

Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan

Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota

Learning Disabilities Association of New Jersey

Learning Disabilities Association of New York

Learning Disabilities Association of Ohio

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 Virginia

Learning Disabilities Association of Wisconsin

Let's Do it! Togo

Missouri River Bird Observatory

Oregon Environmental Council

Plastic Free Restaurants

Poovulagin Nanbargal

Port Arthur Community Action Network

Root Local

Save Our Rivers, Inc.

Save the Med Foundation

Sheffield Saves

Sustainable Environment Development Initiative

Sustainable Roanoke

UNISC International

Upper Etowah River Alliance

Women's Voices for the Earth

Zero Waste Ithaca