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Maggie Fox, Senior Health Writer
NBC News
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cc'd:

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RE: "Chemical Phthalates in Food Packaging Linked With Lower IQ in Kids"

Dear Ms. Fox,

I read with interest your article "*Chemical Phthalates in Food Packaging Linked With Lower IQ in Kids*" published on <http://www.nbcnews.com> on December 10, 2014, and I am writing to draw your attention to a serious misuse of the image used as the focal point to your story: (<http://www.nbcnews.com/health/kids-health/chemical-phthalates-food-packaging-linked-lower-ig-kids-n265721>)

The image to which I am referring is that of a PET plastic bottled water bottle, of which there is no mention in your story. My concern is that the use of this image may mislead people into thinking the story pertains to PET plastic bottles, which it does not.

More importantly, although the PET acronym stands for Polyethylene Terephthalate, there are no phthalates in PET plastic.

PET plastic bottles, commonly small, portable 16.9 (half-liter) and 24 ounce sizes, are safe and reliable for food contact use. PET is used in a variety of packaging for many foods, including everything from peanut butter, soft drinks, and juices to beer, wine, and spirits. PET is approved as safe for food and beverage contact by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) and similar regulatory agencies throughout the world, and has been for more than 30 years.

I respectfully request that your online article be updated to portray a more appropriate image that reflects the contents in your story. As it currently appears, the article seriously misinforms consumers about the safety and quality of bottled water. And, it is not in the best interest of your readers to discourage consumption of this safe, healthy, convenient product.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions or if you'd like to discuss this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chris Hogan
Vice President of Communications
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