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Bill Bans PCB

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — An industrial chemical which has been found concentrated in Great Lakes fish and which has caused high death rates and birth failures in animals would be banned from use in Michigan under a proposed House bill.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, said Monday he was prompted to write the bill by a state Water Management Bureau report that polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) levels in some fish are well above a five parts per million tolerance allowed by the federal Food and Drug Administration.

"The effects of PCB on humans are still uncertain," Bonior said. "But there have been reports of it causing illness such as nausea and dizziness.

"It's bad enough that this chemical is affecting our wildlife, but it is alarming to think that it may have the same effect on humans."

Officials have cautioned that children and pregnant women should eat no more than one serving a week of fish thought to contain PCB, Bonior said.

Fishermen have been given the same warning, he said.

Contending that PCB must be heated to at least 2,000 degrees for four seconds to destroy it, Bonior said:

"Considering its potential harmful effect on people and wildlife, I think it's time we get rid of PCB altogether."

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