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# Legislator seeks ban on toxic PCB

Concerned about the discovery of high levels of toxic polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) in Great Lakes fish, State Rep. David E. Bonior, D-Mount Clemens, said he wil introduce a bill to ban its use in Michigan.

"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."

The chemical is used in many industrial compounds and processes, including fire resistant hydraulic fluids, heat transfer fluids, electrical transformer and capacitor insulation, plasticisers and specialty inks.

WILLIAM G. Turney, water management bureau chief of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, said that PCB levels in some fish are well over the five parts per million allowed by the Food and Drug Administration guidelines.

"Fish-eating birds have also been affected by

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## PCB ban

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PCB," Bonior said. "So have minks which are fed a fish diet and monkeys which have undergone tests with PCB."

Bonior said some of these animals have had severe reproductive failure and have unnaturally high mortality rates. "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," he said.

He also said authorities have cautioned that pregnant women and children should eat no more than one average serving per week of fish suspected of containing PBC.

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