



NEWS RELEASE
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DUSTY BAKER NAMED NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF DON'T TAKE MY BAT AWAY COALITION

***PA House Committee to Hold Hearing on Statewide Bat Ban
Thursday, Sept. 27th, in Harrisburg***

Coalition Membership Approaches 4,000

The fast-growing Don't Take My Bat Away Coalition, which has grown to nearly four thousand members since being established just months ago, today announced that former Major Leaguer Dusty Baker will serve as its national chairman. Baker, the former two-time all-star outfielder, World Series winner, three-time League champion and former manager for the San Francisco Giants and Chicago Cubs, issued the following statement on joining the coalition:

"I've followed the issue of metal versus wood very closely, and I know that today's non-wood bats are just as safe as wood. I also know that non-wood bats make a positive contribution to the game, especially for the average ballplayer. They make the game more fun, allow kids to start playing at a very young age, and help improve hitting, which is why nearly every amateur uses them. These bats are safe because they are designed according to strict rules that limit the ball's exit speed to one comparable to the best wood bats. Baseball is a significant part of my life, and I think that league officials, coaches, and players should set the rules for the game."

Baker is also father to an eight-year old son, Darren, who uses an aluminum bat as a Little League player. "I wouldn't let Darren play with aluminum if it weren't safe," Baker added.

As national chairman, Baker will be the voice of the coalition, talk to the media and serve as a spokesman. He is an unpaid volunteer.

Coalition Membership Grows to 3,954 Members

As of today, the Don't Take My Bat Away Coalition has 3,954 members in 40 states, with most membership based almost entirely in the three states considering banning metal bats. There are 1,310 members in Pennsylvania, 1,302 in New York State, and 1,093 in New Jersey. Members are mostly players, coaches, parents and school officials.

Pennsylvania State Legislature to Hold Hearing on Bat Ban Thursday

A state legislative committee in the Pennsylvania House, the Children and Youth Committee, is scheduled to hold a hearing on legislation which would ban non-wood bats in baseball and softball for anyone under the age of 18. The hearing will be held Thursday, September 27th, at 1:00 pm in the State Capitol building.