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## **ADAO Demands Justice for Congressional Tunnel Workers**

Washington, DC ...April 10, 2007 --- The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), an organization dedicated to serving as the voice of asbestos victims, today demanded justice for the Congressional tunnel workers affected by asbestos exposure.

"It is amazing that any employer tries to get away with an asbestos cover up these days and still more amazing when the employer is Congress," according to Linda Reinstein Executive Director and Co-founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. "Nearly a decade ago, the Architect of the Capitol (AoC)'s own investigations documented deadly airborne asbestos in the utility tunnels housing the systems that keep Congress warm in winter and cool in summer. One year ago the power plant tunnel crew wrote to members of Congress pleading for help because nothing had been done to protect them in the intervening time. One year ago my husband died of mesothelioma, an unwitting victim of asbestos. The cycle of exposure and lies and inaction and death continues, unbroken."

Reinstein continued: "Congress must immediately appropriate funds to fix the tunnels and to compensate the tunnel workers for life-threatening injuries they incurred just because they showed up for work each day and did their jobs. Congress must compensate their families, who were almost certainly contaminated with fibers carried home on work clothes, and who are now condemned to live under the perpetual shadow of asbestos disease. For those of us who have lost loved ones, it's too late. It's not too late for Congress to do the right thing by its own employees, and to make sure this doesn't happen again."

According to Dr. Richard A. Lemen, former Assistant Surgeon General (ret) United States Public Health Service and Co-Science Director of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization: "To observe a deplorable situation like this in the tunnels of our United States Capitol is shocking - 37 years after the deliberative bodies housed there passed landmark public health legislation aimed to protect America's workers and our environment. This tragedy was unfolding right underneath the location of those historic deliberations that resulted in the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 and the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency."

"ADAO has been assured by the U.S. Senate that it is working to protect and uphold the rights of asbestos victims, making this egregious discovery all the more inexcusable," according to Douglas Larkin, Communications Director and Co-founder of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization. "It is not only time for the truth to be told; it is time for justice to be enacted for these workers and their families."

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## **About Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization**

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) was founded by asbestos victims and their families in 2004. ADAO seeks to give asbestos victims a united voice to help ensure that their rights are fairly represented and



protected, and raise public awareness about the dangers of asbestos exposure and the often deadly asbestos related diseases. ADAO is funded through voluntary contributions and staffed by volunteers. For more information visit <a href="https://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org">www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org</a>.