



May 18, 2022

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The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2022

Dear Senator Merkley and Representative Bonamici:

On behalf of the [Asbestos Diseases Awareness Organization](http://www.AsbestosDiseasesAwarenessOrganization.org) (ADAO), an independent nonprofit, I write to express our strong support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2022. We greatly appreciate your unwavering leadership and steadfast commitment to public health, as seen in your 2017, 2019, and now your 2022 legislation to ban commercial asbestos. With the passage of your bill, the United States will finally join nearly 70 countries that have banned asbestos.

The facts are irrefutable. Asbestos, a known carcinogen, is the most hazardous substance used widely since the industrial revolution. There is no safe level of exposure to asbestos. When inhaled or ingested, microscopic asbestos fibers can become lodged in tissue and cause mesothelioma and cancers of the lung, larynx, and ovaries. Asbestos exposure is also associated with cancers of the pharynx, stomach, and colorectum and causes asbestosis and other painful and disabling lung diseases. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, an estimated 40,000 Americans die from asbestos every year.

The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act is comprehensive legislation that will:

- **Prohibit the importation and commercial use of all six asbestos fibers** (chrysotile, crocidolite (riebeckite), amosite (cummingtonite-grunerite), anthophyllite, tremolite, and actinolite) as well as Libby Amphibole, winchite, and richerite.
- **Transition plants in the chlor-alkali industry** using asbestos diaphragms to non-asbestos technology within two years.
- **Establish mandatory asbestos reporting** obligations for companies importing and using asbestos.
- **Develop an educational outreach** program to support full compliance with ARBAN.

The chlor-alkali industry is the sole importer of raw chrysotile asbestos, which it uses to manufacture industrial chlorine and caustic soda. Since 2016, the chlor-alkali industry has decreased the number of plants that depend on asbestos diaphragms from 17 to 9, a transition that demonstrates that non-asbestos technology is not only feasible but makes good business sense.

As an act of Congress, ARBAN will avoid time-consuming and unproductive litigation over the Environmental Protection Agency’s pending rulemaking and prevent delays in protecting Americans at risk from asbestos exposure. In comparison to the EPA rulemaking, ARBAN would also permanently close the door to all importation and commercial use of raw asbestos and asbestos-containing products – not just for chrysotile but for all six asbestos fibers and the Libby Amphibole and for all uses of these fibers.

Thank you for your long-standing commitment to protecting public health. We are eager to work with you to see ARBAN become law.

Sincerely,

ADAO President, Cofounder, Widow of the late Alan Reinstein



May 26, 2022

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Merkley and Representative Bonamici:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write to express our strong support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act. APHA appreciates your leadership on this legislation to ban the import, manufacture, process or distribution of commercial asbestos.

Passage of your bill is critically important because asbestos continues to be imported and used in the U.S. In 2021, the U.S. International Trade Commission indicates that 100 metric tons of raw asbestos were imported to the U.S. In the first quarter of 2022, 114 metric tons have already been imported to ports in Houston-Galveston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Norfolk, Va. Without a ban on asbestos, the U.S. will never be able to reduce the incidence of asbestos-related cancers. ARBAN will put the U.S. on a path to ban asbestos and join nearly 70 countries that have already done so.

The scientific evidence is unequivocal. Asbestos is a potent carcinogen and there is no safe level of exposure to it. Asbestos causes mesothelioma and cancer of the lung, larynx, and ovary. It is also associated with excess risk of cancers of the pharynx, stomach, and colorectum. An estimated 40,000 Americans die from an asbestos-related disease every year.

Thank you for your longstanding commitment to protecting public health. We are eager to work with you to see ARBAN become law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Georges C. Benjamin'.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

EDWARD A. KELLY
General President

FRANK V. LÍMA
General Secretary-Treasurer

May 17, 2022

Senator Jeff Merkley
U.S. Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House of Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Merkley and Representative Bonamici,

On behalf of the 327,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical responders of the International Association of Fire Fighters, I write in full support of the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2022 (ARBAN Act). This important bill would end the importation, commercial use, and distribution of the widely known carcinogen which is directly responsible for asbestosis, mesothelioma and other forms of cancer experienced by our nation's federal fire fighters.

As you know, the ARBAN Act is the most comprehensive asbestos ban legislation in 30 years, and this critically needed legislation would

- Prohibit all six asbestos fibers plus Libby Amphibole, winchite, and richierite.
- Advance the asbestos utilizing industries' transition to non-asbestos technology.
- Establish mandatory asbestos reporting under EPA's *Chemical Data Reporting* rule, critical to informing fire fighters of the locations of these toxic fibers.
- Publicize the information to those who may be subject to the prohibition.

In recognition of the detrimental health impact of this toxic material, over seventy nations have an importation and use ban in place. However, the United States continues to import nearly 400 metric tons of harmful raw asbestos annually. Manufacturers continue to produce and sell asbestos holding products that end up in homes and businesses in every community. Fire fighters are repeatedly exposed to airborne asbestos fibers released when responding to fires and other hazardous conditions. Fire fighters experiencing exposure to airborne asbestos are 200 percent more likely to suffer from an asbestos related disease than the general public. As occupational cancers have risen to become the leading cause of death among fire fighters, the IAFF is committed to combatting this deadly disease on all fronts including strongly supporting the ARBAN Act which establishes a nationwide ban on asbestos.

The IAFF stands proudly alongside you as you introduce the ARBAN Act in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. I am confident the ARBAN Act will significantly reduce or nearly eliminate the 40,000 asbestos related deaths occurring in the country each year, including dozens of fire fighters. We owe it to this generation and all future generations of fire fighters to take steps to protect their lives. I thank you for partnering with the IAFF to craft this measure and for your bold leadership and commitment to bring forward this sensible legislation.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Kelly
General President

June 3, 2022

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Chair, Committee on Environment and Public
Works
U.S. Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment
and Public Works
U.S. Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chair, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: S. 4244 and H.R. 7810, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2022

Dear Chairperson Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chairperson Pallone, and Ranking Member Rodgers:

On behalf of the [Environmental Protection Network](https://www.epn.org/) (EPN), we are writing to express our strong support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2022 (ARBAN), recently introduced in the Senate by Senator Merkley (S. 4244) and in the House by Representative Bonamici (H.R. 7810).

EPN is a volunteer organization that harnesses the expertise of more than 550 former Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) career staff and confirmation-level appointees from Democratic and Republican administrations to provide the unique perspective of former regulators with decades of historical knowledge and subject matter expertise.

During our time at EPA, we worked on programs to protect the public from exposure to asbestos. We understand the uniquely hazardous properties of asbestos, which causes lung cancer, mesothelioma, asbestosis, and a host of other cancerous and noncancerous diseases and is unsafe even at very low concentrations. Almost from its inception, EPA has devoted considerable resources and expertise to countering the dangers of asbestos emitted to air, found at Superfund sites, managed as waste, incorporated in various consumer products, and present in schools and other buildings to which millions of Americans are exposed. EPA has spent over 20 years cleaning up asbestos contamination from vermiculite mining in the small town of Libby, Montana, which has killed 694 residents and sickened 2,400. Few, if any, pollutants regulated by EPA have been as pervasive in our environment and have continued to pose as grave a threat to human health as asbestos.

According to current estimates, 40,000 people in the U.S. die each year from exposure to asbestos. EPA leaders have long recognized that eliminating the ongoing importation and use of asbestos and asbestos-containing products is essential to prevent additional exposure and protect people from more disease and death. But this goal has remained elusive since EPA's 1989 regulatory ban of most asbestos uses under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) was vacated and remanded to EPA for further proceedings by the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit, in 1991.

Like many others, we were hopeful that the 2016 Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act would enable EPA to make long-overdue progress on banning asbestos. EPN applauds the current administration for proposing in April 2022 a Part 1 risk management rule banning ongoing uses of chrysotile asbestos, while concurrently initiating a Part 2 risk evaluation for legacy uses and associated disposal of chrysotile and all other asbestos fibers. However, the Part 1 proposal is limited to six conditions of use and does not address the five other fiber types, leaving the door open to additional asbestos importation and use. Industry is also opposing the proposed ban on chrysotile use in the chlor-alkali industry, and the final Part 1 rule will likely be subject to litigation that further delays its implementation.

As a result, we believe that only Congress can quickly ban asbestos, and we strongly support the enactment of ARBAN to protect the health and well-being of all Americans. ARBAN will expeditiously prohibit the importation, manufacturing, processing, use, and distribution of all forms of commercial asbestos, asbestos-containing mixtures, and products. It will also require Right-to-Know reporting on asbestos and a public education/technical assistance program.

We urge the House and Senate to pass ARBAN as soon as possible, to prevent further unnecessary loss of human lives.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

Michelle Roos
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Network

cc: Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
Honorable Jeff Merkley



DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NOBIS
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUTIT

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
439 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

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DANIELA PELCLOVA
Czech Republic

KURT STRAIF
France/Germany

RE: SUPPORT for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act

Dear Senator Merkley, Dear Representative Bonamici,

I write in the name of the Collegium Ramazzini to support the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization's on-going efforts towards passage of the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act.

The Collegium Ramazzini is an international scientific society that examines critical issues in occupational and environmental medicine with a view towards action to prevent disease and promote health. The Collegium derives its name from Bernardino Ramazzini, the father of occupational medicine, a professor of medicine of the Universities of Modena and Padua in the late 1600s and the early 1700s. The Collegium is comprised of 180 physicians and scientists from 35 countries, each of whom is elected to membership. The Collegium is independent of commercial interests.

We endorse the call for an immediate ban on all mining and use of asbestos in all its forms in order to eliminate the continuing burden of disease and death that is caused worldwide by asbestos exposure. Indeed, the Collegium first called for such a ban more than twenty years ago in the [6th Collegium Ramazzini Statement](#) and has reiterated this call over the years, [15th Collegium Ramazzini Statement - Repeat Call](#).

Please consider us as advocates for the urgent passage of this legislation which will save countless lives in our country and globally.

Yours Sincerely,

Melissa A. McDiarmid, MD, MPH, DABT
Collegium Ramazzini
President

General Secretariat
Castle of Bentivoglio
Via Saliceto, 3
40010 Bentivoglio (BO)
Italy
collegiumramazzini@gmail.com
www.collegiumramazzini.org

June 8, 2022

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member, Committee on
Environment and Public Works (EPW)
U.S. Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Committee on
Environment and Public Works (EPW)
U.S. Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
1035 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Carper and Capito and Representatives Pallone and McMorris Rodgers

We are scientists who have devoted our careers as researchers, teachers, and government officials to combating the public health threat of asbestos. Asbestos causes numerous deadly diseases, including mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, ovarian cancer, and laryngeal cancer. While asbestos use has declined since its height in 1973, the death toll from asbestos exposure remains alarmingly high, totaling nearly 40,000 Americans every year.

Because there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos, we and many of our colleagues have long recognized that the public will not be protected unless we ban all asbestos mining, importation, and use. Nearly 70 countries around the world have already taken this step but the US has lagged. However, S. 4244 & H.R. 7810, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2022 (ARBAN), provide Congress with a unique opportunity to eliminate asbestos from US commerce.

In addition to banning the importation and use of asbestos and asbestos-containing products within one year of enactment, we strongly support these bills' transition plan for the 8 remaining chlor-alkali plants that now use asbestos diaphragms and convert to non-asbestos technology. A new Right-to-Know program would also require all importers and users of asbestos and asbestos-containing products during the last three years to inform both the EPA and the public of their activities, including where and how much asbestos has been used and how many people have been exposed.

We urge you to bring S. 4244 and H.R. 7810, a strong bill to protect public health, to the Senate and House floor as soon as possible with the goal of passing ARBAN on a bipartisan basis.

Thank you again for your strong support for this landmark legislation.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Lemen, Ph.D., MSPH. United States Assistant Surgeon General (Ret.), Former Deputy Director and Acting Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Arthur L. Frank, MD, PhD, Professor of Public Health and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Drexel University School of Public Health in Philadelphia

Henry A. Anderson, MD Adjunct Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI

Casey Bartrem, PhD, Executive Director, TerraGraphics International Foundation

Brad Black, MD, Research Director, Center for Asbestos Related Disease, Libby, MT

Barry Castleman, ScD, Environmental Consultant

Richard Clapp, MPH, DSc, Professor Emeritus, Boston University School of Public Health

John M. Dement, Ph.D., CIH, Professor Emeritus, Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine, Department of Family Medicine & Community Health, Duke University School of Medicine

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Philip J. Landrigan, MD, MSc, FAAP. Director Global Public Health Program, Boston College

Hester J. Lipscomb, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Department of Community Health and Family Medicine, Duke University Medical School, Durham, N.C.

Steven Markowitz MD, DrPH, Barry Commoner Center, Queens College, CUNY (Institution is listed for affiliation purposes only)

Peter Orris, MD, MPH, FACP, FACOEM. Professor and Chief Attending Physician, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System.

Celeste Monforton, DrPH, MPH, Lecturer in Public Health, Texas State University.

L. Christine Oliver, MD, MPH, MSc, Adjunct Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

Knut Ringen, DrPH, MHA, MPH, Occupational Health Consultant

Kenneth Rosenman MD, Professor of Medicine, Chief, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Michigan State University

Leslie Thomas Stayner, PhD. Professor Emeritus, Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Illinois at Chicago, School of Public health.

Margrit von Braun, PhD, PE, Professor and Dean, Emerita, University of Idaho

Ian von Lindern, PhD, PE. CEO (ret.), TerraGraphics Environmental Engineering, Co-Founder, TIFO

Laura Welch, MD, Visiting lecturer, George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services