



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

EDWARD A. KELLY
General President

FRANK V. LÍMA
General Secretary-Treasurer

September 7, 2022

Linda Reinstein, President
Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization
1525 Aviation Boulevard, Suite 318
Redondo Beach, California 90278

Dear Linda,

On behalf of the 331,000 members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), I write to share our congratulations to you and the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) on the occasion of ADAO's 17th annual Asbestos Disease Awareness and Prevention Conference. Since the early days of ADAO, the IAFF has proudly stood in partnership with you as we advanced of our mutual quest to draw attention to the harmful health impacts resulting from asbestos exposures and to advance legislation to eliminate preventable asbestos exposures and related diseases.

As you know, every September the IAFF memorializes fallen fire fighters and emergency medical responders who have succumbed to line of duty injuries or occupational diseases, including those caused by asbestos. Our valiant emergency responders are included in the 40,000 Americans who succumb to asbestos related diseases each year. This is an incredible number that continues to grow larger each year. Because of the work of ADAO and others, we know fire fighters represent a disproportionately high number of those victims. Studies have identified fire fighters are twice as likely to develop an asbestos related disease than general public; due to frequent exposure to airborne asbestos, often present at fire scenes and other emergency incidents.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has determined there is no safe level of asbestos exposure. Despite the CDC's determination, asbestos continues to be imported into the United States and utilized in products manufactured by Americans. This fact and the increasing occurrences of asbestos diseases urgently beg for action. This why the advancement of the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act (ARBAN) is essential. ARBAN would ban the importation, manufacture, and sales of asbestos products and would shield fire fighters and the public from preventable asbestos exposure.

Our strong partnership to raise awareness of asbestos related-diseases and to advocate for an asbestos-free America will prevent avoidable exposures leading to the saving of countless lives! This solid partnership between the ADAO and the IAFF must continue until we are successful in ending all asbestos-related illness and deaths.

I wish you enormous success at this year's ADAO Conference. Thank you for your strong advocacy supporting this legislation and your endless support of our nation's professional fire fighters!

Sincerely,

Edward A. Kelly
General President