

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2022

Dear Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization conference attendees,

I want to send my heartfelt congratulations to the presenters and honorees of the 17th Annual Virtual Asbestos Awareness and Prevention Conference. Any public health expert will tell you there simply is no level of exposure to asbestos that is safe for the human body, which makes education and prevention of the dangers associated with asbestos crucial to keeping Americans safe.

Roughly 40,000 Americans die each year from asbestos-related causes, and this number will not decline until we take decisive action to protect all Americans from asbestos. Every day that asbestos imports and use continue here in America is a day that workers and consumers continue to be exposed to this deadly carcinogen. It's time for U.S. to join the international community and ban asbestos once and for all.

Together, with ADAO and with your advocacy as individuals, we have been working together to end this horrible and avoidable death and suffering, protect public health, and finally bring our asbestos policy into the 21st century. Earlier this year, Congresswoman Bonamici and I reintroduced the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act, which would prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos. ADAO has been a critical ally in this effort and I'm counting on your help nailing down the Senate support we need to finally, belatedly ban asbestos.

As you advance education and prevention this weekend, please know that I also remain committed to working in Congress to eliminate all asbestos-caused disease in the United States. The importance of the work being done to educate and protect Americans from asbestos cannot be understated. It is time to finally ban the importation, manufacture, and distribution of asbestos.

I wish you all a successful conference, and I appreciate your advocacy on this tremendously important issue.

All my best,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator