INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS ®

EDWARD A. KELLY
General President

FRANK V. LÍMA
General Secretary-Treasurer

August 8, 2023

Member
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Cosponsor S.1069, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), representing nearly 340,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical responders, I respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship of the S.1069, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023. This critical legislation is of immense importance to the health and safety of our fire fighters and the communities we serve.

Fire fighters risk their lives every day to protect citizens from life-threatening emergencies, including responding to fires where the presence of asbestos exposes fire fighters to a known carcinogen. Asbestos has long plagued our profession and contributes to increased occupational cancer rates among fire fighters. The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023 is a crucial step in eradicating this toxic threat and safeguarding the well-being of fire fighters nationwide.

Your co-sponsorship of this legislation would demonstrate your commitment to the health and safety of fire fighters and send a powerful message about prioritizing public health. By banning asbestos and its importation, use, and sale in the United States, we can protect individuals from the devastating effects of asbestos-related diseases. I urge you to join us in this bipartisan effort and support the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023.

If you require additional information or want to discuss this matter further, please contact IAFF Governmental Affairs Representative Greg Russell (grussell@iaff.org).

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. The IAFF stands ready to work with you to advance this legislation and protect our nation's fire fighters and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Kelly,
General President

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS ®

EDWARD A. KELLY
General President

FRANK V. LÍMA
General Secretary-Treasurer

August 8, 2023

Member
United State House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: Cosponsor Request on HR. 2402, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), representing nearly 340,000 professional fire fighters and emergency medical responders, I respectfully request your support and co-sponsorship of the HR. 2402, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023. This critical legislation is of immense importance to the health and safety of our fire fighters and the communities we serve.

Fire fighters risk their lives every day to protect citizens from life-threatening emergencies, including responding to fires where the presence of asbestos exposes fire fighters to a known carcinogen. Asbestos has long plagued our profession and contributes to increased occupational cancer rates among fire fighters. The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023 is a crucial step in eradicating this toxic threat and safeguarding the well-being of fire fighters nationwide.

Your co-sponsorship of this legislation would demonstrate your commitment to the health and safety of fire fighters and send a powerful message about prioritizing public health. By banning asbestos and its importation, use, and sale in the United States, we can protect individuals from the devastating effects of asbestos-related diseases. I urge you to join us in this bipartisan effort and support the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023.

If you require additional information or want to discuss this matter further, please contact IAFF Governmental Affairs Representative Greg Russell (grussell@iaff.org).

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. The IAFF stands ready to work with you to advance this legislation and protect our nation's fire fighters and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Kelly,
General President

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization™
Hear Asbestos. Think Prevention.

September 20, 2023

United State Congress

Subject: Cosponsor S.1069/ H.R.2402, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023

Dear Members of Congress,

I am writing on behalf of the Asbestos Diseases Awareness Organization (ADAO) to urge you to support and cosponsor the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023 (S.1069 and H.R.2402).

The facts are irrefutable.

- Asbestos is a human carcinogen.
- All forms of asbestos can cause disease or cancer.
- There is no safe level of exposure.

When asbestos fibers become airborne, they can infiltrate the lungs, causing scarring and inflammation. This exposure has dire consequences, resulting in agonizing and often fatal illnesses such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and various cancers, including those of the lung, larynx, and ovaries. Alarmingly, more than 40,000 Americans die each year from preventable asbestos-related diseases, underscoring the urgent need for action.

It is noteworthy that nearly 70 countries across the globe have already taken the decisive step of banning asbestos. The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023 seeks to align the United States with these nations by comprehensively prohibiting asbestos, including its importation, use, and sale within our borders. Embracing this legislation is not only a matter of public health but also a crucial stride towards modernizing our chemical industry and safeguarding our citizens.

In 2022, a staggering 300 metric tons of raw chrysotile asbestos entered the United States through ports in Houston-Galveston, TX, Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, New Orleans, LA, and Norfolk, VA. For the most recent data and insights, please refer to the ***2023 Comprehensive Asbestos Report: The Analysis of Imports, Use, Impact on Human Health, and Current Regulations and Policy.***

We respectfully request your support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act (ARBAN) and kindly ask that you direct your cosponsorship inquiries concerning ARBAN (S.1069 and H.R.2402) to Caitlin_Yntema@merkley.senate.gov or Josh.Izaak@mail.house.gov.

The compelling public health benefits of eradicating this lethal carcinogen from commerce in the United States provide an indisputable rationale for a comprehensive ban.

We look forward to working with you to pass and enact this pivotal legislation, which will benefit both your constituents and our nation.

Sincerely,



Linda Reinstein, Cofounder and President, Asbestos Diseases Awareness Organization (ADAO)
Linda.Reinstein@gmail.com
Direct (310) 437-3886

190 CARONDELET PLAZA, SUITE 1530
ST. LOUIS, MO 63105-3443

September 20, 2023

United State Congress

Subject: Cosponsor S.1069/ H.R.2402, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023

Dear Members of Congress,

Olin Corporation, one of the three remaining users of raw asbestos in the United States, writes to ask for your support for S.1069/ H.R.2402, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023. As the leader in total U.S. and global chlorine production and the largest U.S. and global producer from the asbestos diaphragm process, we are supporting the end of the use of asbestos in our industry.

While the EPA has been evaluating this issue under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for the last 7 years, Olin supports a legislative solution that will ensure this issue is addressed without what may amount to another decade of legal challenges and administrative delays. Olin is working closely with the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO) and we are collaborating and coordinating our efforts to support this legislation and refine it as it moves through the legislative process.

Olin supports an immediate ban on asbestos imports into the United States, which will protect those who may be exposed to this material along the supply chain. Olin will cease installation of new asbestos diaphragms within two years and purge the remaining asbestos from our assets within seven years, which is necessary to carry out the extensive work of modifying thousands of individual diaphragm components with new material and to prevent any shortages of critical chlorine in the meantime. Any suggestion by other industry groups or companies that this timeframe is unachievable is simply untrue—Olin has the largest asbestos diaphragm capacity of any producer in the world, and we are confident that this timeline is achievable.

The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2023 represents a pivotal stride towards eradicating this outdated technology that has already been eliminated in the rest of the developed world, while safeguarding the health and safety of all who may encounter this material. By advocating for the comprehensive ban of asbestos, including its importation, use, and sale within the United States, we can move the chemical industry into the 21st century.

Your endorsement and co-sponsorship of this legislation would convey a powerful message about your dedication to public health. Should you require further information on this matter, please feel free to contact Olin's Director of Government Affairs Mike Meenan at mmeenan@olin.com. Your thoughtful consideration of this pressing issue is greatly appreciated.

Olin extends our sincere gratitude for your attention to this issue, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with you in advancing this legislation. Together, we can drive meaningful change for the betterment of our industry and our communities.

Sincerely,

Scott Sutton
Chairman, President and CEO

June 9, 2023

RE: Support for Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2023 (H.R. 2402)

Dear U.S. Representatives,

We, 21 organizations, are writing to express our full support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2023 (H.R. 2402) and request that you cosponsor this crucial piece of legislation that will prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos. We also request that you join our fight by signing on as a co-sponsor of the bill to show your commitment to protecting the health and safety of your constituents and Americans across the country who remain at risk of deadly asbestos exposure.

As an ARBAN cosponsor, you will advance efforts to protect Americans from asbestos exposure and preventable diseases.

Asbestos is a deadly carcinogen that has been widely used since the industrial revolution. Asbestos exposure can lead to fatal illnesses including mesothelioma and cancers of the lung, larynx, and ovaries, among other health issues. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, an estimated 40,000 Americans die from asbestos yearly. With occupational cancers on the rise, we must take action to combat this deadly disease on all fronts. Putting an end to imports and the use of asbestos through ARBAN is a necessary step to ensure Americans are protected from asbestos-caused death and diseases.

Nearly 70 countries have banned asbestos, and nearly all U.S. corporations now support the transition away from asbestos technology. ARBAN is supported by a wide array of stakeholder organizations and is a critical step forward in preventing diseases, suffering, and deaths caused by asbestos exposure.

ARBAN is the most comprehensive asbestos ban legislation in over 30 years. By prohibiting all six asbestos fibers plus Libby Amphibole, winchite, and richerite, ARBAN would require industries importing and using asbestos to transition to non-asbestos technology — a process already underway and proven to be economically feasible and environmentally beneficial.

The bill will also provide additional resources for public education on the adverse health effects of asbestos exposure and improve understanding of regulations and resources available to mitigate exposure, including a listing of licensed entities who engage in asbestos removal and remediation. These educational resources are another critical step forward in preventing asbestos exposure.

As Dr. Raja Flores, the esteemed Chairman of the Department of Thoracic Surgery and the Steven & Ann Ames Professor in Thoracic Surgery at Mount Sinai has stated, "Members of Congress can do more with a pen than I do with a scalpel."

On behalf of our organizations and supporters, we urge you to cosponsor and voice your support by calling for the House Energy & Commerce Committee to move H.R. 2402 forward by scheduling a markup. If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Josh Izaak (Josh.Izaak@mail.house.gov).

Thank you for your leadership and support in enhancing public health by banning the importation, commercial sale, and use of deadly asbestos.

Sincerely,

June 9, 2023

RE: Support for Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2023 (S.1069)

Dear U.S. Senators,

We, 21 organizations, are writing to express our full support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2023 (S.1069) and request that you cosponsor this crucial piece of legislation that will prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos. We also request that you join our fight by signing on as a co-sponsor of the bill to show your commitment to protecting the health and safety of your constituents and Americans across the country who remain at risk of deadly asbestos exposure.

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As Dr. Raja Flores, the esteemed Chairman of the Department of Thoracic Surgery and the Steven & Ann Ames Professor in Thoracic Surgery at Mount Sinai has stated, "Members of Congress can do more with a pen than I do with a scalpel."

On behalf of our organizations and supporters, we urge you to cosponsor and voice your support by calling for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to move S. 1069 forward by scheduling a markup. If you have any questions or would like to sign on, please contact Caitlin Buchanan (caitlin_buchanan@merkley.senate.gov).

Thank you for your leadership and support in enhancing public health by banning the importation, commercial sale, and use of deadly asbestos.

Sincerely,