

20TH ADAO CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING

Impact of Asbestos on Public Health, Environment, and Economy

September 23, 2026 | 12:00 to 1:00 PM EDT | SVC 209, Capitol Visitor Center
Hosted with the Office of U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley

DEDICATION

In memory of the first responders, workers, and residents of lower Manhattan lost to asbestos-related disease since 9/11

Twenty-five years after September 11, 2001, the health consequences of World Trade Center dust continue.

One Story, Four Voices



Linda closes by connecting all four presentations: **prevention**. About 25 minutes of staff discussion follows.

Resources



ARBAN Act

[ARBAN Resource Page and Timeline](#)

[S.5235](#) | [H.R.5373](#)

[2026 ARBAN Letters of Support](#)



EPA and Litigation

[EPA Part 1 Timeline](#) | [EPA Part 2 Timeline](#)

[ADAO Legal Advocacy in 2026](#)

[USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries 2026](#)



9/11 Health

[World Trade Center Health Program](#)

[September 11th Victim Compensation Fund](#)

[NYC 9/11 Document Portal](#)



Stories and Prevention

[200+ Testimonies: Share Your Story](#)

[Legacy Asbestos Safety: 5 Essential Tips](#)

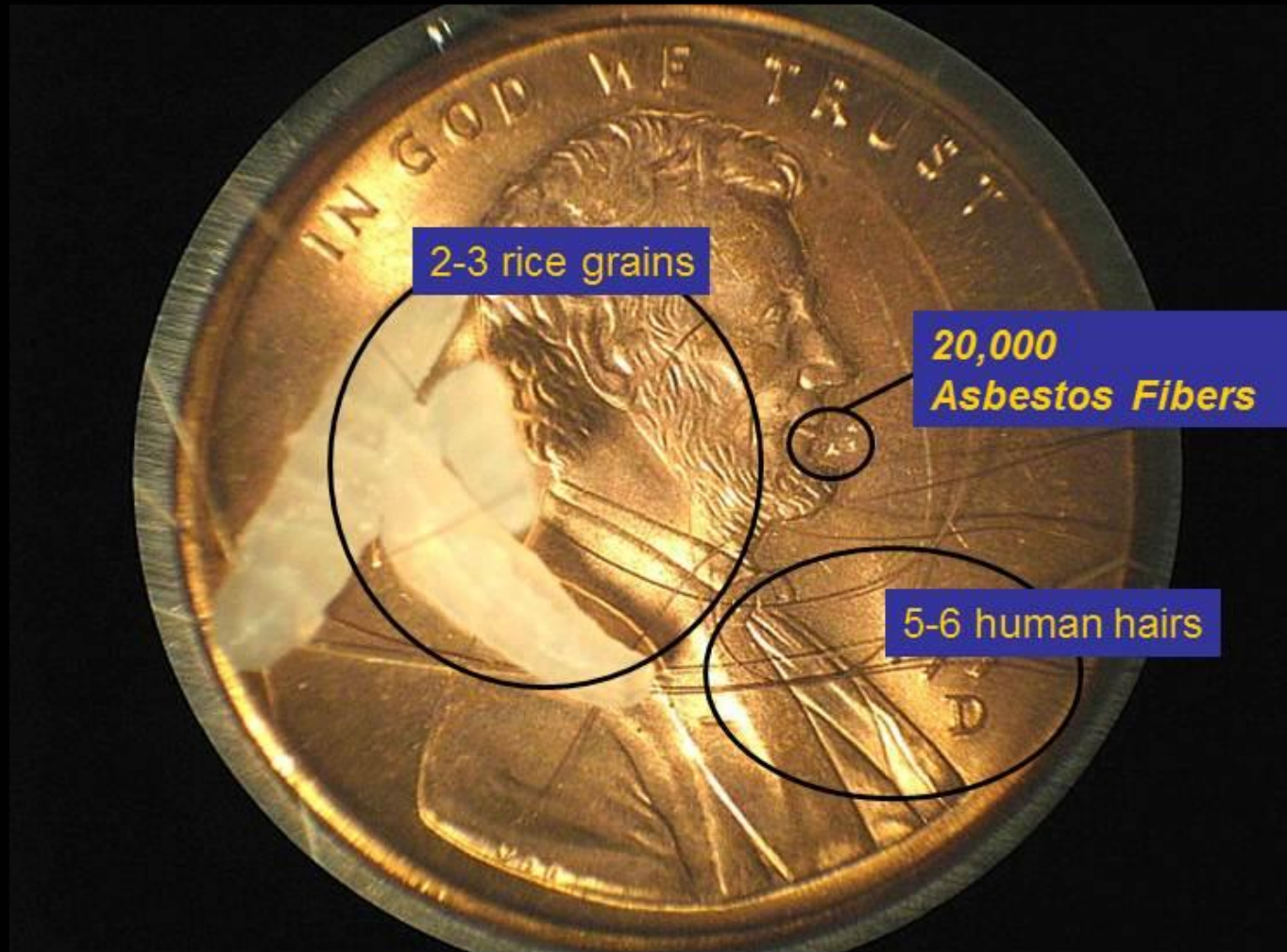
[Lancet Oncology: Firefighter Carcinogenicity \(2022\)](#)

1 | LINDA REINSTEIN | HEALTH AND HISTORY

After 20 congressional briefings, asbestos disease remains preventable. Exposure continues.

ADAO has brought patients, physicians, scientists, workers, attorneys, and prevention experts to Congress to share evidence and real-world experience.

How small is asbestos?



**Danger is
not always
visible.**

This is why awareness
matters.

www.AsbestosDiseaseAwarenessOrganization.org

Asbestos causes cancer and lung disease

Diseases linked to exposure

- Mesothelioma
- Lung cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Laryngeal cancer
- Asbestosis and other respiratory disease

40,000+

American workers died from preventable asbestos-caused disease in 2019

Long latency

Disease can appear decades after exposure.
Decisions made today shape health for years to come.

Today we answer four questions

LINDA REINSTEIN

What does asbestos do to health?

BRENT KYNOCH

Where are people exposed today?

BOB SUSSMAN

When will the US ban all asbestos fibers in all uses?

GREG RUSSELL

What remains for Congress to consider?

Legacy doesn't mean gone.

It means already installed.

EPA defines legacy uses as asbestos materials no longer made or sold that remain in place, including floor and ceiling tiles, pipe wrap, and insulation.

Where legacy asbestos becomes exposure



Where it remains

Older homes, schools, public and commercial buildings, industrial sites, and infrastructure



When risk increases

Renovation, repair, demolition, maintenance, fire, and disasters disturb materials and release fibers



Who encounters it

Construction and maintenance workers, abatement professionals, firefighters, homeowners, and occupants



What prevention looks like

Identify before disturbing. Trained professionals, proper controls, containment, and safe disposal.

Building trades: when materials are disturbed



Spray-applied fireproofing



Renovation and repair work

Takeaway: Construction, maintenance, repair, renovation, and demolition work can disturb materials installed decades ago.

BRENT KYNOCH | SCHOOLS

Legacy asbestos can be hidden in schools.

Photos taken at a Maryland high school in July 2025.



Prevention starts before disturbance: inspect, test, and use licensed professionals before work begins.

3 | BOB SUSSMAN | LAW, EPA, AND LITIGATION

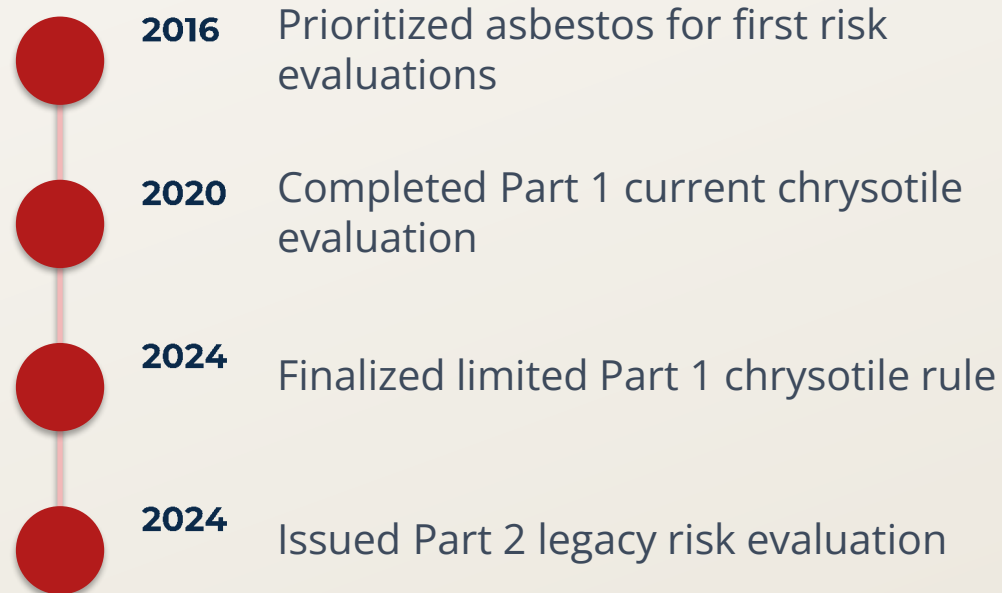
EPA regulation and congressional legislation are different legal tools

EPA action, litigation, and federal legislation each address a different piece of the asbestos problem. That is why both EPA action and ARBAN are part of ADAO's policy work.

EPA progress, but the job is not done

TSCA reopened a regulatory path for asbestos, while key legal and implementation issues remain unresolved.

EPA has now



Unfinished work

- Information gaps on current use and exposure
- Part 1 scope did not address every endpoint or condition of use
- Fifth Circuit litigation remains pending
- Legacy asbestos rulemaking is delayed

Bob's frame: progress made; work remains.

What legislation and legacy action add

EPA rules and congressional legislation serve different roles. Bob's summary: ARBAN adds certainty while EPA finishes legacy protections.

Part 1 rule

Chrysotile uses

- Litigation could put the rule in limbo
- Existing rule is limited in scope

ARBAN

Comprehensive ban

- Long-term certainty
- All six fibers; present, former, and future commercial uses
- Immediate effect except chlor-alkali transition

Legacy rule

Installed asbestos

- Needed for schools, buildings, construction sites, and homes
- EPA missed the Dec. 3, 2025 deadline
- ADAO is suing to compel action

Takeaway: legislation can lock in a broader ban; EPA still needs to address legacy exposure.

Three tools, three pieces of the problem

EPA PART 1

Ongoing chrysotile uses

EPA issued a risk management rule in 2024. The Fifth Circuit heard the challenge on June 1, 2026.

EPA PART 2

Legacy uses and other fibers

EPA found unreasonable risk to human health and plans to propose a rule by June 3, 2027.

CONGRESS

The ARBAN Act

S.5235 would amend TSCA to prohibit commercial asbestos. Referred to Senate EPW.

Where things stand

Date	Action
Aug 24, 2026	Comments close on EPA's information request for the legacy asbestos rule
Aug 4, 2026	Senators Merkley and Curtis introduce S.5235, the ARBAN Act of 2026
Jun 23, 2026	EPA announces a plan to propose the legacy asbestos rule by June 3, 2027
Jun 1, 2026	Fifth Circuit hears argument on the Part 1 chrysotile rule
Apr 21, 2026	ADAO sues EPA to compel the overdue legacy asbestos rule
Dec 3, 2025	TSCA deadline for a proposed legacy asbestos rule passes
Dec 3, 2024	EPA publishes its final Part 2 risk evaluation, finding unreasonable risk
Mar 28, 2024	EPA issues the Part 1 chrysotile asbestos rule

Sources: Federal Register; U.S. EPA; GovInfo; ADAO

Firefighters cannot choose what materials are inside the building when the alarm sounds.

Prevention has to happen before we arrive.

First responders often enter environments before anyone knows exactly what hazards are present.

9/11 at 25 Years

Nearly 150,000

World Trade Center Health Program members,
living in all 50 states

0.8 to 3.0%

Asbestos content of settled dust at Ground Zero

170,000+

Pages of NYC records released in 2026 on early
asbestos concerns

Oct 1, 2090

Victim Compensation Fund claim deadline; survivors
may qualify, not only responders

ADAO'S CONGRESSIONAL ASK

Cosponsor ARBAN

SENATE OFFICES

S.5235

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Sen. John Curtis (R-UT)

HOUSE OFFICES

H.R.5373

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)

More than 50 countries ban asbestos. The United States does not.

LINDA REINSTEIN | CLOSE

Health. Legacy. Law. Prevention.

Asbestos is a public-health problem, a workplace problem, a legacy-building problem, and a policy problem. The thread connecting every one of them is prevention.

ADAO supports completing strong EPA action on asbestos and enactment of the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act.

Discussion and Q&A

Our speakers are available for follow-up with your office.

Linda Reinstein

Health and prevention

Brent Kynoch

Legacy asbestos and abatement

Bob Sussman

Law, EPA, and litigation

Greg Russell

Firefighters and 9/11

Contact: [Name, title, email] | asbestosdiseaseawareness.org

Run of Show

Speaker	Time	Role	Staff takeaway
Linda Reinstein	6 to 7 min	Health and 20-year perspective	Asbestos disease remains preventable, but exposure continues
Brent Kynoch	6 to 7 min	Legacy asbestos and abatement	Asbestos installed decades ago remains an exposure risk when disturbed
Bob Sussman	7 to 8 min	Law, EPA, and litigation	Regulation has advanced, but major gaps and legal complexities remain
Greg Russell	6 to 7 min	Firefighters, 9/11, and ARBAN	Workers and first responders face real exposure; ADAO asks offices to consider cosponsoring ARBAN
Linda Reinstein	1 to 2 min	Close	Prevention connects all four presentations
Discussion	About 25 min	Staff questions	Experts available for follow-up