



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 30, 2013

**ADAO President to Testify before U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works as Part of Expert Panel Addressing Toxic Chemical Threats**

*Hearing to Examine Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Reform to Protect Public Health*

**Washington, D.C. – July 30, 2013** – The Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), the largest independent asbestos victims' organization in the U.S., today announced that President and Co-Founder Linda Reinstein will testify about the dangers of asbestos on Wednesday, July 31, 2013 at 9:30 AM EDT before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW). She will join an expert panel during a full committee hearing entitled, **"Strengthening Public Health Protections by Addressing Toxic Chemical Threats."** The hearing, to be held at 406 Dirksen Senate Office Building, will examine the need for **Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)** reform to protect public health and our environment from chemicals.

Ms. Reinstein will discuss how the specific TSCA reform under consideration through the "Safe Chemicals Act of 2013" (S. 696) is critically flawed and jeopardizes public health and the environment. Her testimony will examine the need to expedite action to prohibit imports, and ban the manufacture, sale and export of asbestos-containing products, while protecting each state's ability to maintain or pass stronger laws to regulate chemicals.

Reinstein will discuss the facts about the continued use of lethal asbestos in the U.S., with ports in the states of Louisiana, Texas, California and New Jersey still actively receiving and unloading asbestos shipments. Reinstein will also reference the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) report that states that U.S. asbestos consumption in 2012 was estimated to be 1,060 tons. In the past two years, the nation has seen an increase in asbestos consumption in the chloralkali industry specifically, even though viable and affordable asbestos substitutes exist.

"Most Americans trust that their air, soil and water are safe from toxic contaminants; however, the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) has failed to protect public health and our environment," according to Ms. Reinstein's testimony. "Asbestos fibers are odorless, tasteless, indestructible, and can be nearly 700 times smaller than a human hair. All forms of asbestos can cause cancer and respiratory diseases. Americans have lost confidence in the chemical industries' ability to protect us from toxins. Congress should draft and pass meaningful TSCA reform legislation that truly strengthens protections for our families and environment by preventing the further use of asbestos."

Ms. Reinstein joins a panel of expert witnesses including Michael Troncoso (Senior Counsel, Office of the Attorney General), Ken Cook (President and Co-founder, Environmental Working Group), Daniel Rosenberg (Senior Attorney, Natural Resource Defense Council), and additional national experts on public health and the environment.

ADAO will deliver nearly 2,500 [Ban Asbestos petition](#) supporter signatures to Congress as part of Ms. Reinstein's participation at the hearing.

Each year, an estimated 10,000 Americans die from asbestos-related disease: 3,000 from mesothelioma, 5,000 from lung cancer, and 2,000 from other cancers or respiratory diseases. Between 2000 and 2010, 43,464 Americans died from mesothelioma and asbestosis – just two of the leading asbestos-caused diseases.

"One life lost to a preventable asbestos-caused disease is tragic," her testimony concludes. "Hundreds of thousands of lives lost is unconscionable."

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### **About ADAO**

The *Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)* was founded by asbestos victims and their families in 2004. ADAO seeks to give asbestos victims a united voice to help ensure that their rights are fairly represented and protected, and raise public awareness about the dangers of asbestos exposure and the often deadly asbestos-related diseases. ADAO is funded through voluntary contributions and staffed by volunteers. For more information, visit [www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org](http://www.asbestosdiseaseawareness.org).

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