



Thursday, July 18, 2013

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Senator Barbara Boxer, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Senator David Vitter, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Dear Senator Boxer and Senator Vitter,\*

On behalf of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), the largest independent asbestos victims' organization in the U.S., I am writing to express our opposition to the Chemical Safety Improvement Act (CSIA) (S. 1009). Our organization and your constituents are concerned that the bill does not deliver meaningful reform to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and does not adequately protect Americans from the worst toxic chemicals, such as asbestos.

Specifically, CSIA has the following critical flaws:

- Next to Impossible to Phase Out or Ban Harmful Chemicals. The CSIA would make it impossible for the EPA to ban or phase out the worst of the worst toxic chemicals on the market.
- Grossly Inadequate Safety Standard. The CSIA's safety standard would place a heavy burden on the EPA to find that a chemical such as asbestos is unsafe, rather than shifting the burden to chemical companies to show chemicals are safe.
- Lack of Deadlines to Ensure Safety. The CSIA is virtually devoid of any deadlines that would require the EPA to act quickly to assess and restrict the use of harmful chemicals such as asbestos.
- Unworkable Standard of Court Review. The CSIA would retain the unworkable standard of court review found in TSCA, which ultimately prevented the EPA from being able to ban asbestos in 1989.
- Freeze on State Efforts to Protect People from Chemicals. The CSIA contains far-reaching language that would paralyze states from being able to enforce existing laws, as well as pass new ones, to increase protections against harmful chemicals such as asbestos.

Each year, 10,000 Americans die from preventable asbestos-related diseases. Occupational, environmental, and consumer asbestos exposure continues throughout the nation, jeopardizing the health of countless men, women, and children. Please find attached ADAO's detailed position paper regarding the Chemical Safety Improvement Act. As Congress works to reform TSCA, ADAO urges you to address our concerns outlined in this position paper regarding the CSIA's critical flaws. Thank you for your commitment to public health.

Sincerely,

Linda Reinstein  
President and Co-Founder, Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO)

\*Please note that this letter was sent to all members of the U.S. Senate.

Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization  
**"United for Asbestos Disease Awareness, Education, Advocacy, and Community Support"**  
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