

June 9, 2023

The Honorable Tom Carper  
Chair, Committee on Environment and Public  
Works  
United States Senate  
513 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers Chair,  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1035 Longworth House Office Building

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
172 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and  
Commerce U.S. House of Representatives  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building

RE: Support for Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2023 ([S.1069](#) and [H.R. 2402](#))

Dear Chairs Carper and McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Members Capito and Pallone:

We, 21 organizations, are writing to express our full support for the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now (ARBAN) Act of 2023 ([S.1069](#) and [H.R. 2402](#)) and request that you expeditiously schedule a markup for this crucial piece of legislation that will prohibit the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce of commercial asbestos. We also request 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.

Asbestos is a deadly carcinogen 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, [40,000 Americans](#) die from asbestos each year. With occupational cancers on the rise, we must take action to combat this fatal 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.

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 the 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.

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.

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.”

Thank you for your leadership and support to prohibit commercial asbestos imports and use. We urge you to make ARBAN a priority and expeditiously schedule a markup for this crucial piece of legislation to protect Americans.

Sincerely,

