



May 8, 2019

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change
Committee on Energy & Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Shimkus
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment & Climate Change
Committee on Energy & Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Tonko and Ranking Member Shimkus:

On the behalf of the National Demolition Association (NDA), I am writing to submit the following comments on your committee's hearing titled, "Ban Asbestos Now: Taking Action to Save Lives and Livelihood" that will consider H.R. 1603, the "Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2019."

The National Demolition Association represents over 500 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard demolition services as well as a full range of demolition-related services and products. NDA educates members on the latest advances in equipment and services, provides educational programs and tools to stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keeps regulators informed about issues in our industry. NDA also increases public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of demolition.

NDA is firmly committed to ensuring public health along with the safety and protection of workers at all times and takes that responsibility seriously. At present, there are over 100 NDA member companies that participate in the encapsulation, removal, or air monitoring of asbestos. The demolition and wrecking industry is set to generate nearly \$6 billion of revenue in 2019¹, with the asbestos abatement sector contributing a significant amount to that total. To protect the public and workers, NDA supports the continued implementation of scientifically based laws and regulations implementing the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Frank Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, including the regulation of asbestos, and already works with federal agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Regarding H.R. 1603, NDA is supportive of the bill's steps to address the hazards resulting from asbestos exposure. In particular, NDA supports Section 3 of the bill, which requires a report assessing the presence of asbestos in residential, commercial, industrial, public and school buildings, as well as the risk posed to human health from that asbestos. This information is vital for the government and public to understand the prevalence of asbestos currently in the U.S. and how stakeholders including NDA can assist with the mitigation of asbestos hazards. As such, Congress should ensure that this section remains intact.

NDA's commitment to public health and workplace safety has focused recently on collaborating with federal agencies, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and EPA. Our association is currently working to reenter a formal Alliance with OSHA and is collaborating with EPA's Office of Brownfields and Land Revitalization. As Congress and federal agencies work to mitigate the hazards from exposure to toxic substances, including asbestos, NDA will continue to be a willing and active participant in this effort.

¹ According to IBISWorld's *Demolition & Wrecking in the US Industry Report*, the market size in the United States will generate \$5.9 billion in revenue in 2019, a 3.7% growth of industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue. Please contact Kevin McKenney at kmckenney@demolitionassociation.com or 202-367-2480 with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Lambert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" being more prominent than the last name "Lambert".

Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer