



April 27, 2015

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The Honorable Jim Inhofe, Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
The Honorable Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

RE: OPPOSITION to Senator Vitter's "Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act" Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Ranking Member Boxer,

On behalf of the [Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization](http://www.AsbestosDiseaseAwarenessOrganization.org) (ADAO), the largest independent asbestos victims' organization in the U.S., I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senator David Vitter (R-LA)'s "Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act." (S. 697) Substitute Bill and pursuant efforts to improve S. 697. This replacement bill does not resolve the existing problems nor adequately protect public health. True TSCA reform should:

1. Require the Environmental Protection Agency to act quickly to consider a ban on asbestos
2. Protect children and vulnerable populations from harmful toxins
3. Provide stronger safety standards and quicker safety reviews of chemicals
4. Ensure exposure from chemical spills and leaks are addressed
5. Maintain states' rights to protect people from dangerous toxic chemicals

Exposure to asbestos, a known human carcinogen, can cause mesothelioma; lung, gastrointestinal, laryngeal, and ovarian cancers; asbestosis; and pleural diseases. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 107,000 workers around the world will die every year of an asbestos-related disease. Every day, 30 Americans die from asbestos-related diseases. [Rear Admiral Boris Lushniak, Acting U.S. Surgeon General](#), issued a statement about the dangers of asbestos, yet the U.S. continues to import this known carcinogen.

ADAO and hundreds of public health, occupational and safety, and environmental groups applaud bipartisan efforts to reform the outdated TSCA, but S. 697 is dangerously flawed and represents a TSCA rollback for public health.

As Congress works to reform TSCA, ADAO urges you to draft and pass legislation that protects Americans from preventable toxic diseases and deaths.

We look forward to remaining a stakeholder in future discussions and serving as a resource for Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Reinstein".

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

CC: U.S. Senate