

Statement on S. 697 from AFL-CIO (Peg Seminario)

One of the provisions that the AFL-CIO would ask you to push for and support is an amendment designating asbestos as a high priority and requiring EPA to move forward expeditiously and issue a rule banning asbestos within 3 years.

Exposure to asbestos is still a huge problem. Today at the AFL-CIO we had an event in conjunction with our annual Workers Memorial Day observance presenting a new photography exhibit paying tribute to asbestos workers and chronicling the history of asbestos use, exposure and disease. As sobering and disturbing as the terrible public health disaster that has been caused by asbestos, with 10,000 people still dying every year, is the fact that asbestos use and exposures continue today. Asbestos use should have been banned a long time ago. Any TSCA reform bill needs to make banning asbestos a priority and include a mandate to get it done.