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December 4, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
The Honorable Frank Pallone

RE: Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt on December 7, 2017

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone,

On behalf of the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization (ADAO), we thank you for holding a hearing on Thursday, December 7, 2017 for Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt to address the Energy and Commerce Committee's concerns.

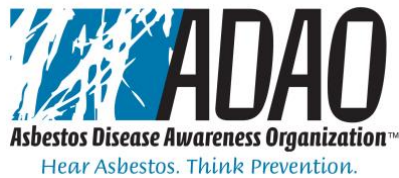
ADAO is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to eliminating asbestos-caused diseases through education, advocacy, and community efforts.

We are deeply concerned with President Trump's political appointees and the alarming changes in every department within the EPA, whose vital purpose is to protect human health and the environment. We share the belief of Chairmen Walden and Shimkus that, "it is past time for EPA to refocus on pursuing its important public health and environmental missions as Congress originally intended."

As a stakeholder in legislative discussions and policy, we have witnessed the irreversible rollbacks already in the implementation of The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) reform bill that was signed into law in 2016.

During your hearing, we respectfully request that you ask Administrator Pruitt to speak on the following issues:

- The Asbestos Scoping Document (June 2017) that excludes the evaluation of risk for both legacy exposure and the Libby Amphibole.
- Under the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act of 2016, the EPA has deliberately ignored the statutory evaluation requirements and has dangerously narrowed the "conditions of use."
- The EPA's scheduling of Michael Walls, Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs for the American Chemistry Council, to appear as a panelist on the EPA's Public Meeting. "Progress Implementing Changes to the New Chemicals Review Program under the Amended TSCA" on December 6, 2017.
- The overwhelming preponderance of evidence supportive of the need to ban asbestos, including:
 - Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and there is no safe or controlled use.
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that from 1999 – 2015, Mesothelioma deaths increased by 4.8%.



- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) reported, “The population of firefighters in the study had a rate of mesothelioma two times greater than the rate in the U.S. population as a whole.”
- Asbestos imports doubled from 340 metric tons in 2015 to 705 metric tons in 2016.
- Brazil's Supreme Federal Court ruled that there is “no safe or controlled use” and banned the mining, use, and commerce of asbestos. In addition, the court refused to grant an exemption for asbestos use in chlor-alkali plants.
- In the USA, the chlor-alkali industry is the sole asbestos importer and user, and they are seeking an exemption from the EPA to continue using asbestos in some antiquated plants.

We hope this important hearing gives the Committee greater knowledge, so you can address the problems disempowering the EPA. If left unaddressed, these issues will, without a doubt, result in the Agency's inability to ban dangerous chemicals like asbestos, lead, Bisphenol A (BPA), Trichloroethylene (TCE), and phthalates.

Again, we thank you for calling this hearing, and for your ceaseless dedication to protecting public health, the environment, and the American people.

Sincerely,

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