

**Rep. Bonamici Remarks E&C Member Day Hearing Remarks 12/12/25**

Thank you Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone for holding this member day hearing.

I'm here today to advocate for a bill that this Committee should once again make a priority, the bipartisan Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act (H.R. 5373).

It is dangerous and unacceptable that the United States still allows the importation, manufacturing, and distribution of asbestos — a known carcinogen that has claimed too many lives in our country and around the world. We know that asbestos exposure continues to cause devastating health effects, particularly for those working in conditions where this deadly material is or was present.

Tens of thousands of Americans die from occupational asbestos exposure each year, and thousands of people are diagnosed with Mesothelioma, a deadly form of cancer. Mesothelioma is caused by exposure to asbestos that has been used as insulation and fireproofing material in homes, commercial buildings, and common products such as paint and construction materials. Mesothelioma also disproportionately affects first responders, with firefighters at a much higher risk of developing this deadly cancer compared with the general population.

The bipartisan Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act, named for a husband and father who lost his life at 66 after a four-year battle with the disease, would ban the commercial use of all six recognized asbestos fiber types.

We have worked to focus this bill on addressing the use of asbestos in commercial products. The scope of the bill applies only to the manufacture, processing, use, and distribution in commerce, including importation, of commercial asbestos.

In the rare instances where asbestos may be used in a commercial product for national security purposes, the bill allows the President to grant an exemption.

The bill also guarantees the ban does not inadvertently create liability for natural impurities that occur in commercial activities for other substances.

The bill states explicitly that it has no effect on regulating cosmetics under the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetics Act.

Finally, the bill provides the chlorine industry, the top importer of raw asbestos in the United States, until January 1, 2030, to phase out their use of asbestos in manufacturing.

In the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, this Committee advanced the bill through by a vote of 47-1. Both of you, Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, supported it.

Since then, we have worked very hard to improve the bill. We continue to have bipartisan support, and we also worked with stakeholders to address their concerns. We now have support from a broad coalition of stakeholders in public health as well as industry.

Now is the time for Congress to finally address this issue and permanently ban asbestos. Although administrations have attempted to address this issue through regulation, a bill signed into law would be the strongest action to protect public health and bring closure and justice to all those victims of this horrible carcinogen and their families.

Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, thank you for your time today and past support of this bipartisan legislation; I look forward to continuing to work with you both to advance this important bill.

I yield back.