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November 1, 2019

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
US Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Attention: Logan Hollers

Dear Senator Merkley:

As Co-Founder, President & CEO of GO₂ Foundation for Lung Cancer, a recent merger of Lung Cancer Alliance and the Addario Lung Cancer Foundation; whose mission is transforming survivorship by saving, extending and improving the lives of those vulnerable, at risk and diagnosed with lung cancer, I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1603 and S.717, the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act of 2019.

As you may know, inhalation of asbestos fibers has been linked to an increased risk of lung cancer in many studies of asbestos-exposed workers. Of growing concern is the lung cancer risk among ground troops deployed during the Gulf Wars whose exposures included asbestos, chromium, diesel exhaust, radon, crystalline silica, pesticides, pollutants and particulate matter from burn pits, oil well fires and the destruction of chemical weapons including sarin gas. While research focused on these veterans is urgently needed, given lung cancer's long latency period; efforts should also be made to increase awareness of asbestos and reduce exposure.

During our November Lung Cancer Awareness Month, we would like to bring increased national awareness and strategic focus on ways to improve outcomes and quality of life of those impacted by lung cancer. In our efforts to address a well-known environmental factor, we join the AFL-CIO, American Public Health Association, the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and other leaders in support of the Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act, to require a comprehensive study into the risks of legacy asbestos in homes, schools, workplaces and public places; in order to ban imports and use of asbestos in the U.S.

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Ignore No One.**

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With great excitement, we welcome the opportunity to work with the sponsors of the bill and the health committees to save more lives by reducing asbestos as a risk factor for lung cancer. Please contact Elridge Proctor, Director of Government Affairs at 202-742-1427 or email Eproctor@go2foundation.org with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laurie Fenton Ambrose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Laurie Fenton Ambrose
Co-Founder, President & CEO
GO₂ Foundation for Lung Cancer

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