In short, our companies do not quarrel with the EPA objective of eliminating the use of asbestos in gaskets. We do take exception, however, to the method chosen to effectuate a phase-down, and believe that a complete ban on importation and manufacturing on a date certain would be a preferable approach.

We appreciate this opportunity to present our views on the EPA proposal. My colleagues and I will be pleased to try to answer any questions which you may have.