PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
CT-1497

MODEL LETTER

Dear Assemblyman :

On behalf of the members of Local of the union, we urge you to vote NO on the July 8 version of SB 2572 unless amended. Our lives depend on it. So do the lives of our children.

The key training provision of AB 2040 passed and signed in 1985 has been effectively repealed by a recent amendment to SB 2572 which changed Labor Code Section 6501.8 excepting from the definition of "asbestos-related work" activity involving "nonfriable asbestos-containing construction material when the resulting fibers released will not exceed an action of 0.1 fibers per cubic centimeter of air over an 8-hour time weighted average."

Labor code 6501.8 triggers the training requirement in Health & Safety 24223. Because of this amendment training will not be provided unless workers are exposed above 0.1 fibers. The Cal/OSHA regs provided us with that protection years ago.

We know that workers exposed to asbestos at 0.1 fibers die needlessly from cancer and asbestosis. We may not be able to ask you to lower the permissible exposure limit because scientific experts seem to disagree as to whether asbestos measurements can be made below 0.1, but we can at least ask for training. And with training we can protect ourselves.

We are not asking you to require employers to institute engineering controls, to provide respirators, to provide protective equipment. All we are asking is that any person who handles asbestos, no matter what the level of exposure, be trained as to the nature of the substance, its hazards, and ways to protect themselves. There is no safe level of asbestos exposure. But without information about asbestos, we cannot protect ourselves.

Don't dismiss the idea of self protection saying construction workers are in the business of taking risks. Sure we take risks, but asbestosis and cancer are risks we can minimize if we are informed. And we don't take risks with the lives of our families. Yet without information and training, we will bring home on our clothes asbestos fibers. Studies have shown that wives and children of asbestos workers die needlessly from that type of exposure.

Training is the key to safety. All we are asking is for a requirement that all workers exposed to asbestos receive training and that the training be certified.

Your NO VOTE unless amended is a vote to keep the requirement for training which was created when AB 2040 was passed and signed. If you vote yes, you vote to keep many workers and their families in the dark about the hazards of asbestos and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves.

VOTE NO on SB 2572 unless amended.

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