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BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

4 December 1973

Hearing Clerk
Food and Drug Administration
Room 6 - 86
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, Md. 20852

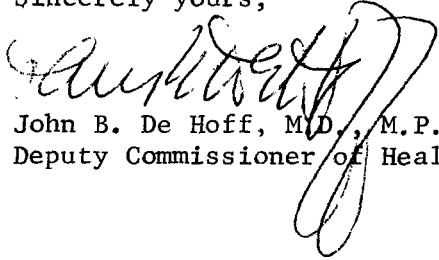
Sir:

I write to uphold the petitions of the Center For Science in the Public Interest and the Environmental Defense Fund, as requested in the Federal Register for 28 September 1973, on page 27076, which asks the Food and Drug Administration to prohibit the asbestos filtration of food stuffs and drugs, as well as the use of asbestos-containing talcs in food and food packaging.

As a member of the Executive Board of the Maryland Public Health Association, I am bringing this to the attention of that body, with the request that the Environmental Section review this matter and provide comments. Also, as President-elect of the Baltimore City Medical Society, I shall have this matter referred to the Committee on Environmental Matters for opinion.

The dangers of asbestos, either in talc or in relatively unadulterated form, have been of concern to me as a public health official. I was pleased to see that the Food and Drug Administration banned the use of talc-coated polished rice. We are also concerned about the use of asbestos-cement sprays for the fireproofing of steel structures, none of which is allowed in Baltimore. Furthermore, I believe that there is no need to use asbestos in the manufacture of any food stuffs, beverages, or in water supply systems, where cement-asbestos conduits are used.

Sincerely yours,


John B. De Hoff, M.D., M.P.H.
Deputy Commissioner of Health

JBD:mfr

cc: Baltimore City Medical Society
Maryland Public Health Association

75P-0261

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