In re: All Asbestos Litigation Filed by The Simmons Firm, Circuit Court, Third Judicial District, Madison Cty., IL; 8/28/03

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Abex

cc: Tim Nenring.

Jim, For your information.

An IC Industries Company

Abex Corporation
Friction Products Group
Suite 710
3001 West Big Beaver Rd
Troy, MI 48084
(313) 643-4400

Hyd. Disc Brk

February 2, 1979

Mr. John A. Urban
Chief Engineer - Advanced Products
Eaton Corporation
Brake Division
P. O. Box 935
Southfield, Michigan 48037

Dear John:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 30 regarding future availability of asbestos-type friction materials. We can certainly appreciate your concern with a newly-developed hydraulic truck disc brake using our Abex 813-36 material.

We at Abex are not sure how any misunderstanding regarding our future plans to manufacture asbestos-type lining may have occurred; however the important fact is that we have no plans to discontinue the manufacture or developments of asbestos-containing friction materials.

It is, however, true that our company, like possibly some others, has current research programs to develop non-asbestos friction materials. Let me assure you that when these materials are ready we will be more than glad to discuss them with you and your company. We do not see these non-asbestos materials taking over as there will be some cost penalty involved. In our opinion these materials will establish their own position in the marketplace along with asbestos, metallics, semi-metallics, and any other available materials.

Please be further assured that there is no intention on our part at this time to enter into any kind of a situation where prices on asbestos materials will be artificially adjusted to favor non-asbestos products. We will continue to price our products based on our manufacturing costs.

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