FILE NAME: Asbestos Textile Product Use (ATPU)

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January 25, 1984

Mr. Richard Gould

Dear Mr. Gould:

You may be interested to know that a bill has been introduced in the Maryland state Senate in Annapolis to ban the sale of asbestos protective garments. I testified in favor of the bill at hearings today. Opponents of the bill, who I suspect were out-of-state firms with a vested interest in asbestos, offered an amendment to allow aluminized or otherwise treated asbestos protective garments. Perhaps you are aware of the shortcomings of such garments under industrial conditions which either render them unsuitable, capable of releasing asbestos, or both. In any event, I would be interested in such information, in addition to whatever you can supply showing the range of conditions satisfactorily met by Kevlar products.

No doubt the sponsor of the legislation, Senator Norman Stone, would also be interested in such matters. We have no parties at interest in Maryland (manufacturers of any protective garments), and Senator Stone introduced this bill purely as a health measure.

Sincerely,

Barry Commoner

P.S. The bill is No. 160, and whoever the opponents are, they have hired Doyle, the most high-powered lobbyist in town to represent them.