

4831148

OWENS CORNING WORLD HEADQUARTERS
ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO 43853
419.246.8600

ATTN: Tim Hobby



May 4, 1998

Dear Owens Corning Retiree:

The current Tobacco Trust being developed and debated in Congress holds great, positive potential for our company. However, your direct support is needed to give this legislation a reasonable chance at becoming law.

As you may have read, this is no ordinary legislation. It involves a settlement with the Tobacco Industry that will represent hundreds of billions of dollars. If enacted, it would substantially reduce the financial burden to Owens Corning and provide us with additional means to pursue our growth agenda and ensure stability for the future.

In order to facilitate your involvement, there are several letters attached for your signature. By signing these letters and mailing them using the pre-addressed, stamped envelopes, you will be making a major contribution toward resolving the inequities surrounding the asbestos issue.

As you consider signing the letters, please keep in mind some important facts.

- While most of the asbestos-related exposures occurred in government shipyards, the government has not, and will not, pay any money to asbestos claimants.
- Asbestos workers who smoked more than one pack of cigarettes a day have a nearly 17-times greater chance of dying of lung cancer than non-smoking asbestos workers. Yet, the tobacco industry has not paid any money to settle claims.
- Seventeen companies that manufactured an asbestos product have gone bankrupt and our company has paid \$1 billion to settle asbestos claims. Fairness demands that others who are responsible to asbestos claimants should share in the burden of asbestos litigation.

It is time to send a clear message that we demand fairness. Please join with me in this contact effort. Sign and send the letters no later than Tuesday, May 6. If you would rather develop your own letter, please do so. But don't let this important opportunity pass without expressing your view. It means so much to all of us at Owens Corning.

Thank you for your involvement and support.

Sincerely,

Glen H. Hiner
Chairman and CEO

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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
WV-05253

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EXHIBIT

WV-05253

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4831148

OWENS CORNING WORLD HEADQUARTERS
ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO 43609
419.246.8000

May 4, 1998



Honorable Tom Lott
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2403

Dear Senator Lott:

Over the past 20 years, my company, Owens Corning, has paid approximately \$3.0 billion in asbestos-related claims. During this same time period the tobacco companies have paid nothing toward any asbestos claims. Yet the medical evidence is clear. The Surgeon General's 1985 Report, *The Health Consequences of Smoking: Cancer and Chronic Lung Disease in the Workplace*, cites studies which show that asbestos workers who smoked more than one pack of cigarettes a day have a nearly 17-times greater chance of dying of lung cancer than non-smoking asbestos workers.

Based upon this obvious inequity, I would urge you to support the legislation recommended by the Senate Commerce Committee (McCain Bill) and full funding of the Tobacco Asbestos Trust.

In addition to this inequity, there is a irony associated with this issue. When the government asked shipyard workers during World War II and through the Vietnam era to install asbestos to save our fleet from devastating secondary fires, the workers did their job. But, when asbestos workers asked the government to pay its share of legal damages, the government's lawyers claimed "sovereign immunity" to escape this liability. Now, Congress has the opportunity to enact a simple and fair means of compensating tobacco-asbestos victims for their smoking-caused harm.

While Owens Corning has been compensating those injured by asbestos, 17 other companies have filed bankruptcy. Together with the thousands of other retirees of Owens Corning and the Company's 15,000 other U.S. employees, I am proud of how our company has met its responsibility. At the same time, we would like to see those also responsible do their part to address this problem without more wasteful litigation.

I am fortunate to work for a company whose goal is to compensate fairly those impaired by exposure to asbestos products we stopped manufacturing 25 years ago, but I am also concerned about the asbestos workers. I worry that my company will not be able to continue to bear the costs of litigation, while others who should shoulder responsibility are allowed to remain on the sidelines.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your support.

Very truly yours,

OWENS CORNING WORLD HEADQUARTERS
ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO 43606
419.243.0001

May 4, 1998



Honorable Thad Cochran
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-2402

Dear Senator Cochran:

Over the past 20 years, my company, Owens Corning, has paid approximately \$3.0 billion in asbestos-related claims. During this same time period the tobacco companies have paid nothing toward any asbestos claims. Yet the medical evidence is clear. The Surgeon General's 1985 Report, *The Health Consequences of Smoking: Cancers and Chronic Lung Disease in the Workplace*, cites studies which show that asbestos workers who smoked more than one pack of cigarettes a day have a nearly 17-times greater chance of dying of lung cancer than non-smoking asbestos workers.

Based upon this obvious inequity, I would urge you to support the legislation recommended by the Senate Commerce Committee (McCain Bill) and full funding of the Tobacco Asbestos Trust.

In addition to this inequity, there is an irony associated with this issue. When the government asked shipyard workers during World War II and through the Vietnam era to install asbestos to save our fleet from devastating secondary fires, the workers did their job. But, when asbestos workers asked the government to pay its share of legal damages, the government's lawyers claimed "sovereign immunity" to escape this liability. Now, Congress has the opportunity to enact a simple and fair means of compensating tobacco-asbestos victims for their smoking-caused harm.

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Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your support.

Very truly yours,

OWENS CORNING WORLD HEADQUARTERS
ONE OWENS CORNING PARKWAY
TOLEDO, OHIO 43688
419.526.8000

May 4, 1998



Mrs. Maria Echaveste
Assistant to the President
and Director of Public Liaison
2nd Floor, West Wing
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Echaveste:

Over the past 20 years, my company, Owens Corning, has paid approximately \$3.0 billion in asbestos-related claims. During this same time period the tobacco companies have paid nothing toward any asbestos claims. Yet the medical evidence is clear. The Surgeon General's 1985 Report, *The Health Consequences of Smoking: Cancer and Chronic Lung Disease in the Workplace*, cites studies which show that asbestos workers who smoked more than one pack of cigarettes a day have a nearly 17-times greater chance of dying of lung cancer than non-smoking asbestos workers.

Based upon this obvious inequity, I would urge the President to support the legislation recommended by the Senate Commerce Committee (McCain Bill) and full funding of the Tobacco Asbestos Trust.

In addition to this inequity, there is an irony associated with this issue. When the government asked shipyard workers during World War II and through the Vietnam era to install asbestos to save our fleet from devastating secondary fires, the workers did their job. But, when asbestos workers asked the government to pay its share of legal damages, the government's lawyers claimed "sovereign immunity" to escape this liability. Now, Congress and the President have the opportunity to enact a simple and fair means of compensating tobacco-asbestos victims for their smoking-caused harm.

While Owens Corning has been compensating those injured by asbestos, 17 other companies have filed bankruptcy. Together with the 15,000 other U.S. employees of Owens Corning, I'm proud of how our company has met its responsibility. At the same time, we would like to see those also responsible do their part to address this problem without more wasteful litigation.

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Thank you and the President for considering my request. I look forward to your support.

Very truly yours,

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