May 18, 1973

Mr. F. H. Heckman
Chrysler Chemical Division
5437 West Jefferson Ave.
Trenton, Michigan

Dear Mr. Heckman:

We have received a copy of the notice which was posted, we understand, on the bulletin board in your department and entitled, "Asbestos is a Killer".

We are very concerned with this type of publicity with reference to asbestos and naturally it results from the publicity which has appeared in the press in recent months. Unfortunately, members of the press have exaggerated the adverse factors relating to Asbestos & Health beyond all bounds of accuracy and, again, unfortunately they show no interest in publishing the true facts.

Although we have a great deal of medical data on asbestos from the positive standpoint, we believe the conclusions reached by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a division of the World Health Organization at a conference held at Lyons, France in October 1972, to be pertinent. The major conclusions of the report can be summarized, as follows:

1) The population at large is not threatened by asbestos fibers in the atmosphere. Surveys in a number of countries have shown that the concentration of asbestos dust in the urban atmosphere is about 10,000 times lower than the concentration known to be safe for occupationally exposed workers.

2) While a direct relationship between inhalation of excessive asbestos dust and certain diseases was confirmed, risks varied according to the type of fiber, the type of occupation, and the extent of engineering controls implemented in the workplace.

3) No increased risk of disease results from asbestos fibers which might be present in the water supply beverages, food, or in the fluids used for the administration of drugs.

4) It is confirmed that cigarette smoking greatly increases the risk of lung cancer among men and women exposed to excessive asbestos dust in their occupations.

We are prepared to send additional data on this subject to you if you require the same or to have specific members of our environmental control group meet with your union representatives, at your request.

We will be interested in your comments.

Yours very truly,

W. W. Hendry
General Sales Manager

Bcc:
Mr. Thomas L. Sullivan - International Fibers, Inc.
W. P. O'Reilly - Cleveland
F. J. Solon, Jr.