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SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FINANCE
SMALL BUSINESS

June 2, 1977

Honorable S. John Byington
Chairman, Consumer Product
Safety Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations is currently conducting an inquiry into exposure to consumer products containing the carcinogen asbestos. As Members of this Subcommittee, we are concerned that the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has not fully utilized the expertise, experimental facilities, and wealth of knowledge on the subject of human exposure to asbestos possessed by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

NIOSH has studied the problem of worker exposure to asbestos for many years and has the most advanced testing facilities for assessing the possible health risk to consumers from exposure to the asbestos-containing products now under review by the Commission. We urge you to contact Dr. John F. Finklea, Director of NIOSH, as soon as possible to obtain NIOSH's assistance in evaluating the asbestos hazard related to consumer products.

We believe NIOSH could be especially helpful in determining potential human exposure to free asbestos from artificial fireplace logs, ashes, and embers, and the potential dangers from improper removal of these products from the home. Conducting proper research to evaluate the removal risk is essential. Research on this subject could be conducted by NIOSH at its headquarters in Cincinnati.

We hope you will move swiftly to avail yourself of NIOSH's expertise in this area.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. LUKEN
Member
Subcommittee on
Oversight and
Investigations

ANDREW MAGUIRE
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