PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT
KM-111

(5)

FILE COPY

Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.

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July 15, 1976

S. John Byington
Chairman
Consumer Product Safety Commission
1750 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Chairman Byington:

Recent scientific studies show that consumers of drywall patching compounds containing asbestos are exposed to a substantial risk of cancer. These studies found very high quantities of asbestos fibers in the air after patching compounds containing asbestos were used in rooms for drywall repair. These suspended fibers are readily inhaled by consumers exposing them to a substantial increase in the risks of lung cancer and mesothelioma. Mesothelioma is an always fatal malignancy of the pleura and peritoneum, membranes which enclose the lungs and abdomen. Brief exposures to asbestos fibers such as those experienced by consumers of patching compounds have been shown to substantially increase the risk of cancer.

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Not used for drywall repair. Original construction. Rapidly done by professionals.

This evidence is summarized in the attached petition which asks the Consumer Product Safety Commission to protect the public health by issuing an order declaring patching compounds containing asbestos to be banned hazardous substances, thus prohibiting their interstate sale and requiring their repurchase by the manufacturer.

Hundreds of other consumer products including fake fireplace ash and papier mache contain asbestos which may be released into the air exposing consumers to increased risks of cancer. We request the

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ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION/
North America
1835 K Street, N. W. Suite 402
Washington, D. C. 20005

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Commission, in cooperation with the Federal Trade Commission, to examine these other products for asbestos content and declare those products which present a significant health risk to be banned hazardous substances.

We urge the Commission to take action on this petition and request as expeditiously as possible. Thank you very much for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ruby I. Compton

Attachment