



June 19, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
United States Senate  
437 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2309 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Conyers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2426 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Grassley; Ranking Member Leahy; Chairman Goodlatte; and Ranking Member Conyers:

We are writing to inform you of our opposition to S. 357 and H.R. 526, The Furthering Asbestos Transparency (FACT) Act of 2015. This legislation, if signed in to law, would be extremely detrimental to our members, and all veterans, who were exposed to asbestos while serving their country, in addition to their family members. As a result, The American Veterans (AMVETS) and the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN) oppose the FACT Act.

Veterans across the country disproportionately make up those who are dying and afflicted with mesothelioma and other asbestos related illnesses and injuries. Although veterans represent only 8% of the nation's population, they comprise 30% of all known mesothelioma deaths. During and after World War II, asbestos use greatly expanded as the asbestos manufacturing companies started producing more equipment and infrastructure for the Department of Defense, most extensively in shipbuilding for the Navy. This caused hundreds of thousands of workers and armed service members to be unknowingly exposed to dangerous asbestos.

When our veterans and members file claims with the asbestos bankruptcy trusts to receive compensation for harm caused by asbestos companies, they submit personal, highly sensitive information such as how and when they were exposed to the deadly product, sensitive health information and more. The FACT Act would require asbestos trusts to publish their sensitive information on a public database, and also include how much money they received for their claim and other private information. Forcing our veterans to publicize their work histories, medical conditions, social security numbers, and information about their children and families is an offensive invasion of privacy to the men and women who have honorably served, and it does nothing to prevent future asbestos exposures and deaths.

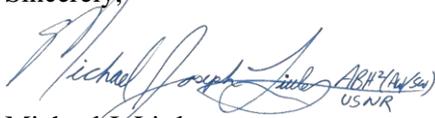
Additionally, S. 357 and H.R. 526 helps asbestos companies add significant time and delay paying trust claims to our veterans and their families by putting burdensome and costly reporting requirements on the trusts, including those that already exist. Rather than compensating our veterans, who were knowingly exposed to asbestos through no fault of their own, trusts will have to spend time and resources complying with these additional and unnecessary requirements.

The FACT Act is a bill that its supporters claim will help asbestos victims, but the reality is that this bill only helps companies and manufacturers who knowingly poisoned our honorable men and women who have made sacrifices for our country. If any legislation were to be pursued to reform the asbestos trust

system it should be to make it even easier, not harder, for the victims and their families that were unknowingly exposed to this harmful material.

For these reasons, AMVETS and AUSN respectfully call upon Congress to oppose this legislation for the good of our members and all victims of the horrible diseases that exposure to asbestos has caused.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Little" and includes the text "ABN (AUSN)" and "USNR" written below the name.

Michael J. Little  
Director of Legislative Affairs, AUSN