

February 7, 2006

Leadership Council

Dear Senator:

Anna Burger  
Chair  
Change to Win  
International  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Service Employees  
International Union (SEIU)

On behalf of our 5.5 million union members, the Change To Win Federation (CtW) is opposed to S. 852 as it is currently drafted. **The Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution** bill is not only unfair to asbestos victims but is seriously flawed with respect to its funding, administration and design

Edgar Romney  
Secretary  
Change to Win  
Executive Vice President  
UNITE HERE

To their credit, Senators Specter and Leahy have labored in good faith to develop a bill that is fair to asbestos victims. Our unions have participated in this process with the understanding that compromise with the defendant asbestos companies and insurers was necessary and inevitable.

Joseph Hansen  
International President  
United Food and  
Commercial Workers  
International Union (UFCW)

Throughout the process, we have supported compromise on a host of issues, only to discover that the defendant companies have retreated further in their demands. Now we learn that a last minute committee amendment effectively bails out the insurance companies from their \$40 billion commitment to the fund.

James P. Hoffa  
General President  
International Brotherhood  
of Teamsters (IBT)

Among the bill's most significant flaws are:

Geralyn Luttj  
International Vice President  
United Food and  
Commercial Workers  
International Union (UFCW)

- A very probable shortfall in funding of at least \$15 billion;
- An effective insurance bailout that further aggravates the funding shortfall;
- A total lack of transparency as to who pays how much into the fund and when;
- Unfair and punitive treatment of silica-related diseases;
- Loopholes that permit defendant bailouts from completely legal and otherwise binding settlements they have entered into;
- Serious start-up problems adversely affecting both non-exigent and exigent claimants;
- The lack of rules and procedures should the fund be forced to shut down, which we believe is inevitable given the expected funding shortfall;
- A defective definition of "asbestos claims" which could block court and other compensation claims without providing a substitute forum in the fund; and
- An attorney's fees cap that would effectively deny certain asbestos victims legal representation.

Douglas J. McCarron  
General President  
United Brotherhood  
of Carpenters  
and Joiners  
of America (UBC)

Terence M. O'Sullivan  
General President  
Laborers' International Union  
of North America (LIUNA)

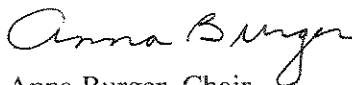
Bruce Raynor  
General President  
UNITE HERE

Given the severity of these problems we reluctantly urge you to oppose this bill and support any effort to sustain a filibuster that may be initiated against it.

Arturo S. Rodriguez  
President  
United Farm Workers  
of America (UFW)

Andrew L. Stern  
International President  
Service Employees  
International Union (SEIU)

Sincerely,



Anna Burger, Chair  
Change to Win

AB:AR:gms