

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1138

Expressing support for the designation of the first week of April 2010  
as National Asbestos Awareness Week.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2010

Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Ms. SUTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

---

## RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the designation of the first week  
of April 2010 as National Asbestos Awareness Week.

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot  
be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause  
significant damage, including mesothelioma, asbestosis,  
and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to  
appear;

Whereas the expected survival time for people diagnosed with  
mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for such diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve their prognoses;

Whereas the World Health Organization, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Surgeon General currently state that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos;

Whereas, although the United States has reduced its use of asbestos substantially, the United States continues to use almost 2,000 metric tons of the fibrous mineral in certain products;

Whereas exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, have asbestos-related diseases at a significantly higher

rate than the national average and suffer from mesothelioma at a significantly higher rate than the national average; and

Whereas the establishment of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives urges  
2 the Surgeon General—

3           (1) to warn and educate people about the public  
4 health dangers of asbestos exposure, which may be  
5 hazardous to their health; and

6           (2) as part of such educational efforts, to des-  
7 ignate a “National Asbestos Awareness Week”.

○