

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

INTRODUCED BY S. GUNDERSON

A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA TO RECOGNIZE AND SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR ASBESTOS RELATED DISEASE.

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

WHEREAS, the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage; and

WHEREAS, asbestos fibers can cause cancer, including mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems; and

WHEREAS, symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves; and

WHEREAS, the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months; and

WHEREAS, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases; and

WHEREAS, early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and may improve the prognoses of those patients; and

WHEREAS, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products; and

WHEREAS, thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases and thousands more die every year from those diseases; and

WHEREAS, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to the prevention of asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases; and

WHEREAS, thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer; and

1 WHEREAS, a significant percentage of victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos
2 on naval ships and in shipyards; and

3 WHEREAS, asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public
4 facilities built before 1975; and

5 WHEREAS, people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases,
6 including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than individuals in the United States as a whole; and

7 WHEREAS, the Center for Asbestos Related Disease is the nation’s leading diagnostic and clinic
8 treatment facilities of illness related to asbestos; and

9 WHEREAS, the clinical and medical expertise gained at the Center for Asbestos Related Disease clinic
10 serves as a resource to those suffering from asbestos-related diseases across the state of Montana and the
11 nation.

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13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF
14 MONTANA:

15 The Center for Asbestos Related Disease is designated as a Center of Excellence in Montana.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of State send a copy of this resolution to the Center
17 for Asbestos Related Disease.

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