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July 10, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler,

I write to express my deep concern about recent reports that the Environmental Protection Agency is enacting a Significant New Use Rule to relax asbestos regulations.

This new rule would allow the EPA to evaluate asbestos use on a case-by-case basis, opening the door to very subjective risk assessment of a known carcinogen. Knowingly allowing a deadly chemical into American homes and businesses is irresponsible, and will hurt children and families.

I have heard from Montanans, and they are concerned that this potential new rule could allow products containing asbestos into their towns. This threat hits especially close to home for many Montanans, because asbestos in the Libby vermiculite mines killed more than four hundred residents. This tragedy should serve as a loud reminder that asbestos is toxic, and its use should not be tolerated.

I urge you to reconsider the implementation of the Significant New Use Rule, and that you extend the public comment period 45 days. Folks deserve a good chance to make their voice heard, especially in regard to an important public health issue.

Sincerely,

Jon Tester

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