MP

House Of Commons

London

SW1 1AA

Dear MP

My name **is of**

I am writing to you to ask you to support the ‘Cape Must Pay’ campaign launched by the Asbestos Victims Support Groups’ Forum UK (‘the Forum’).

The Forum is demanding **Cape Intermediate Holdings LTD pay £10 million to fund mesothelioma research**. This follows a landmark legal case the Forum took against Cape, formerly one of the biggest asbestos companies in the world. Documents disclosed to the Forum proved that Cape knew of the fatal risks of working with their asbestos products yet hid these risks.

Cape:

* Downplayed the fatal risks of working with their products even though they privately acknowledged the link between low levels of exposure to asbestos and mesothelioma.
* Encouraged others to suppress this information;
* Withheld their own data which showed that handling and working with their asbestos products emitted far more dust than had been previously admitted or allowed by Government safeguards;
* Successfully lobbied the Government to weaken allowable exposure limits and product warnings.

I support the demand to make Cape pay for mesothelioma research because

More than 5,000 people die of asbestos-related diseases in the UK each year according to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE). Many of these will be former Cape workers; construction and insulation workers who used Cape’s products; sub-contractors working inside Cape’s factories; transport workers moving Cape’s products; and women exposed through washing their partner’s overalls or who lived near to Cape factories. This death toll will continue unless a cure is found. There is a latency period between an individual’s exposure to asbestos and their illness. **This period is typically between 15 and 60 years**. **Cape’s strategy to withhold information in the 1950s-1980s continues to devastate lives.**

The £10 million is a drop in the ocean compared to the vast profits Cape recorded whilst workers were knowingly exposed to life-threatening asbestos fibres – or to the profits they and their subsidiaries continue to record. The simple fact is, Cape can afford to fund this research. And your constituents, and other victims of asbestos-related diseases across the country, can’t afford for them not to.

I am asking you to:

1. Publicly pledge your support to the campaign through your communications, social media, relevant meetings, adding your name to the list of supporting MP’s and by signing our online petition <https://chng.it/S55JzgJL>
2. Pledge your support and attend any debates on this topic in the House of Commons.
3. Raise this issue in written and oral questions in the House of Commons, including any committees on which you sit.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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