



10 agosto 2018
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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Mayor of Casale Monferrato, the Italian city that became a symbol of the worldwide struggle against asbestos, I'm writing you on behalf of a community that is working hard to open up a new future of opportunities after one of the worse environmental tragedy experienced in Europe.

I have recently read about a stunning rule proposed by EPA on a significant new use rule (SNUR) for certain uses of asbestos and this United States' backward step has shocked all our community, that is working to turn an environmental disaster and a human tragedy into a chance of reaffirming the rule of law, the respect of citizens' and workers' rights and a sustainable economic development, that is respectful of human health and natural environment.

Between 1907 and 1986 was operational in Casale a production plant of Eternit, one of the biggest European producers of asbestos-related materials. From the 50ies until today, we faced the loss of thousands of victims among the plant's workers, their relatives as well as citizens that, in some way, had been exposed to asbestos.

After being the first city in Italy to totally ban asbestos, in 1987, Casale has mobilized citizens and institutions on two key priorities: justice for victims and health protection for new generations.

This 30 year-old civil and institutional mobilization shows that having suitable laws can save thousands of lives; that when institutions, civil society and business community work together, it is possible to achieve unimaginable results, such as the massive renewal plan that is leading Casale - and the other 47 towns of our territory which benefit of our services -, to become by 2020 the first asbestos-free urban area in Italy.

CITTÀ DI CASALE MONFERRATO
il Sindaco

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Indeed, Casale is one of the global points of reference for techniques and policies aimed at removing asbestos from public and private buildings; it is nonetheless a knowledge hub for medical research connected to the development of therapies against mesothelioma as well as for the care and treatment of patients affected by asbestos related diseases. This was made possible by the creation - with to funds originated from financial transactions in favour of the victims' relatives - of a medical centre of excellence for research and care, the UFIM, with the mission of making all the experience and the competences developed here available for all those communities facing this enemy.

I ask you to not forget the thousands of workers and citizens that lost their lives because of asbestos and that today are continuing to fall ill and die.

It's outrageous to know that the United States allows for continued raw asbestos imports and use which not only impacts Americans, but the world. I urge you to take a strong position and issue an Executive Order supporting The Alan Reinstein Ban Asbestos Now Act and invest funds on medical research against mesothelioma, an ill that unfortunately will be even more widespread all around the world.

Most respectfully,

Titti Palazzetti
Mayor of Casale Monferrato