

From the Desk of
Michael Dembrow

Vote in SUPPORT of SB 871

To decrease lead and asbestos contamination during demolition.

We encourage support of SB 871, which makes improvements that facilitate better management of both lead and asbestos and grants greater oversight and enforcement authority to local governments.

There is no toxicological or biological safe level of exposure for either asbestos or lead. We now know that even a miniscule amount of asbestos exposure raises the risk of cancer and lung damage. Even the smallest amount of lead in the blood raises the risk of neurological and reproductive harm.

We also know that asbestos and lead do not simply “go away” when a building is demolished. During demolition, both substances may be carried in the air by dust and debris, putting families near a demolition site at risk of exposure. One study of residential demolitions in Baltimore, MD found that lead in dust increased between 24% and 200% on the streets, alleys and sidewalks within 100 meters of a demolition siteⁱ. And even a month after demolition, the study found some increased levels of lead in neighborhood dust.

Oregon’s Department of Environmental Quality estimates that there are 650 residential demolitions a year across the stateⁱⁱ. Giving local governments the authority and power to protect citizens from these exposures is a practical public health strategy that will pay off in healthier people and better public health, educational and social outcomes.

We urge your support of SB 871.



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NEIGHBORS
FOR
CLEAN
AIR

ⁱ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16194670>

ⁱⁱ <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2015R1/Downloads/MeasureAnalysisDocument/29174>