



Barry Castleman, Sc.D. Environmental Consultant

December 16, 2010

Mr. Baljit Singh Chadha

Dear Mr. Chadha,

I work with people all over the world trying to prevent the developing world from increasingly using asbestos in building materials and having the tragedy that will come from doing this. Just today, it was announced that Thailand will be joining the more than 50 countries that have banned all forms of asbestos.

We are still a long way from bringing things under any control in India, as you must know. The asbestos industry in India is a powerful corrupting force in that country. Even though it is an asbestos-importing nation, India spoke strongly in opposition to including chrysotile asbestos under the Rotterdam Convention, whereby poor, importing countries would have been given pre-export notification of chrysotile's notorious status and would then have the option of granting informed consent to its importation. India's National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) is embroiled in scandal because of its refusal to disclose its disability evaluations to asbestos workers and its collusion with the industry in conducting secretive research. The industry has people in Parliament and owns interests in the media, further limiting the options for civil society to bring about measures to protect public health and the environment. Very, very few people in India receive compensation for disability for asbestos diseases. This despite a Supreme Court decision in 1995 ordering NIOH to conduct medical exams and certify workers who are disabled.

As an influential Indo-Canadian businessman and philanthropist, you stand at the crossroads to Heaven and Hell. Your willingness to be the front man in Canada for the Indian asbestos interests and share in the profits of peddling asbestos in poor countries is essential for getting government support to re-open the Jeffrey Mine. They need someone in Canada to be the Canadian face and reputation that will go on the line to provide public legitimization to this deal. If this horror is allowed to proceed, that will only be the beginning. People around the world will call for the responsible people, including you, to be condemned and prosecuted for violations of human rights. As the death toll mounts, the urgency of calls for protective efforts will increase.

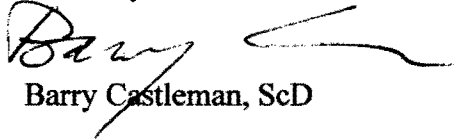
Future governments in Canada will not long guarantee the right of the Indian asbestos industry to mine chrysotile in Canada for export and use the good name of Canada to make it look okay. You could even lose money on this, in addition to becoming known world-wide as the man who kept Canada in the asbestos export business.

So I am writing to ask that you re-consider whether you want to spend the years ahead being associated with this crime and trying to justify it. By way of introduction, I attach

my CV.

Last month I testified as an expert witness in a criminal trial in Turin, Italy. The defendant was Stephan Schmidheiny, a Swiss billionaire whose fortune was made selling asbestos-cement products in Europe, Latin America, and South Africa through the 1980s. I'd be happy to discuss this and anything else with you by telephone or in person. From what I have read about you, I believe there is a chance that simple human decency and good judgment will decide you against making this tragic error.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barry", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Barry Castleman, ScD