

Resolution No. 7

Date: June 8, 2007

City: Washington, D.C.

NAHB Resolution

Title: Asbestos
Original Sponsor: Environmental Issues Committee

WHEREAS, construction activities use aggregate materials and generate dust made up of aggregate materials;

WHEREAS, these aggregates, soils and mixed dust can contain asbestos as well as common non-asbestos particles of the same mineral;

WHEREAS, there is confusion over what asbestos actually is and many definitions inappropriately include all minerals with an identical chemical composition to asbestos, even though the non-asbestiform variety have crystalline structures that are different;

WHEREAS, the inhalation of excessive asbestos fibers over time is associated with significant pulmonary disease, including cancer;

WHEREAS, studies have shown that exposure to common rock fragments and non-asbestos particles does not pose the same risks as exposure to asbestos;

WHEREAS, despite the differences in risk, Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are being pressured to regulate all non-asbestiform minerals that have an identical chemical composition to asbestos; and

WHEREAS, inappropriately designating all types of non-asbestiform materials as asbestos could result in unwarranted public anxiety and costly remediation of nonexistent risks, including new worker protection requirements and severe limits on where land development activities may be allowed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of Home Builders oppose any legislation or regulation that fails to differentiate between asbestos and non-asbestiform minerals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAHB urge Congress to request the National Academy of Sciences or another qualified scientific group to review the science on asbestos and mixed-dust environments and recommend steps to develop a valid risk protocol to be used by the relevant federal agencies.

Board of Directors Action:

Approved