

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



Jim Pillen, Governor

August 23, 2024

The Honorable Ben Hansen  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Nebraska Legislature  
P.O. Box 94604  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Chairman Hansen:

The Department of Health and Human Services' statement on the explanation of effectiveness of the asbestos project designer license is outlined below.

The project designer license type is unique as they are the individuals qualified to design an asbestos project. This license type could be combined with the limited project designer except that the limited individuals do not take a physical to allow them to wear a negative pressure respirator.

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires the use of a project designer when a major fiber release episode occurs. If we no longer had this license type, schools would not be in compliance with federal law (EPA 763.80 subpart E). If an asbestos project designer were no longer regulated, demolition and renovation projects would expose all occupants to a known carcinogen during the project. If a fiber release episode were to occur in a school, the school would have no one to make recommendations to safely remedy the situation.

These regulations have been approved by the EPA. These regulations have been effective to ensure people, especially children, have not been exposed to a known carcinogen that would have led to health issues in the prime of their life. The regulation of the asbestos industry has resulted in a reduction of asbestos-related health issues and deaths.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Menefee".

Charity Menefee  
Director, Division of Public Health