HCOL 195 Writing Assignment: Risk Analysis of Environmental Asbestos Exposure Fall 2010

For this assignment, treat as if you were the scientific advisor to your local senator on a new bill banning asbestos. Consider that the new bill seeks to be similar to the last one - for text on the most recent ‘Ban Asbestos’ bill that was in the House or Senate, see one that died in the last Congress (110th): <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h110-6903>. Present for your Senator what the current state of knowledge about asbestos occurrence and the health effects of asbestos are, and what you would recommend supporting, opposing, or amending to this legislation and why. Additionally provide your Senator with an impact statement – how would people in your state be positively or negatively affected by the legislation.

This presentation should be 3-5 pages (not including references), include selected visual aids as appropriate (feel free to utilize from your references as long as it is cited), and be a sound review of the science behind your recommendations, told at a level a college freshman with zero background in science or health would understand. You should, as a practice, always reference information as you utilize it, but this report should not include footnotes – references in the text are, for example (NIOSH, 2009) or (Vacek et al., 2010), with the full bibliographical reference presented at the end. Websites such as Wikipedia, a legal firms’ website, or a partisan blog are not appropriate as references (though they may point you towards the appropriate references).

For a review of the state of science (minerals and health) of asbestos from the government’s perspective, see the current version of the NIOSH roadmap for asbestos and the National Academy of Sciences review of this document on our class website. Also feel free to utilize information in any of the papers and exercises we have done in class, and to look up any additional info that would be pertinent.