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August 5, 2015

Grace Crunican, General Manager
San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District
P.O. Box 12688
Oakland, CA 94604-2688

RE: Possible asbestos in BART Rohr A- and B-cars

Dear Ms. Crunican:

Last week, the Washington, DC NBC affiliate reported that the 1000-series Rohr rail cars manufactured by Rohr in the 1970s and put into use by the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority contain asbestos, a known human carcinogen.

Like WMATA, the BART fleet includes Rohr train cars that entered service in 1972. As a resident of the Bay Area and a regular BART rider, I am concerned that the Rohr A- and B-cars may expose riders and BART employees to asbestos.

Asbestos exposure is responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths worldwide and up to 15,000 deaths in the U.S. annually, according to a recent estimate by the EWG Action Fund. If inhaled, asbestos fibers can cause fatal cancers and chronic lung diseases, including mesothelioma and asbestosis. Official guidance from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration says:

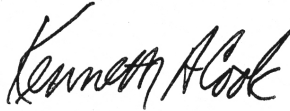
There is no "safe" level of asbestos exposure for any type of asbestos fiber. Asbestos exposures as short in duration as a few days have caused mesothelioma in humans. Every occupational exposure to asbestos can cause injury of disease; every occupational exposure to asbestos contributes to the risk of getting an asbestos related disease.

BART employees who work in the cars and the hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors who ride BART trains each day have a right to know whether they may have been exposed to asbestos.

I understand that there are many challenges in operating a large mass transit system and that BART anticipates decommissioning the Rohr cars in question by 2017. However, the health and safety of those who maintain, operate and travel onboard BART trains must be BART's top priority.

I urge BART to conduct a car-by-car inspection to assess the condition of all cars that may contain asbestos and to make a full public disclosure of the results of that inspection.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth A. Cook". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'A'.

Ken Cook
President
EWG and EWG Action Fund