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□ DAN B. FRANKEL, MEMBER
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ALLEGHENY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
DELEGATION
NEW DEMOCRATIC COALITION,
VICE CHAIR

July 12, 2006

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Mercury Emission Reduction Proposed Regulation

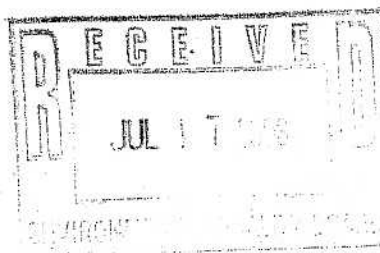
Dear Members of the Environmental Quality Board,

I am writing in support of Pennsylvania moving forward with DEP's state-level proposal to cut mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants by 90 percent by 2015. Pennsylvania's power plants currently have the second highest mercury emissions in the country. Mercury contaminates rivers and lakes, and pollutes fish with this dangerous toxin. The consumption of mercury-contaminated fish can lead to serious health complications, including mental and development problems in children.

The Bush administration has weakened federal mercury regulations by allowing polluters to trade emissions credits, which means that many Pennsylvania power plants could buy their way out of substantial mercury reductions. Power plants should not be able to buy their way out of reducing their mercury emissions. In order to protect the environment of Pennsylvania and the health of my constituents, I urge DEP to move forward in enacting its proposed state-level mercury standards for coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Dan B. Frankel
State Representative
23rd Legislative District



CC: Governor Edward G. Rendell
DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty