

BABETTE JOSEPHS, MEMBER
DEMOCRATIC CHAIR OF
STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

HOUSE BOX 202020
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
PHONE: 717.787.8529
FAX: 717.787.5068
E-MAIL: bjoosephs@pahouse.net
WEB SITE: www.babette.org

1528 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 1901
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19102
PHONE: 215.893.1515
FAX: 215.560.5816



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE 182ND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES

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COMMISSION
JUL 20 PM 2:58
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July 13, 2006

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

Re: Mercury Emission Reduction Proposed Regulation

Dear Environmental Quality Board:

I support the proposal of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to require a 90% cut in mercury emissions from coal fired power plants by 2015.

Pennsylvania's facilities are currently responsible for the second highest mercury emissions in the country. Mercury contaminates rivers, streams, and lakes and makes fish dangerous to eat. Consumption of mercury particularly by children and pregnant women can lead to serious health complications, including learning and attention deficit disorders, problems with coordination, and even mental retardation in babies and children. Not only is the health of future generations put in jeopardy by mercury poisoning, but our \$1.6 billion dollar sport fishing and tourism industries are at risk. Moreover, the DEP proposed standard, with help, encourage the use of 100% bituminous coal in the commonwealth's coal fire plants – to the benefit of the state coal miners.

DEP's state specific standard is imperative, because the Bush Administration has refused to treat mercury as a hazardous air pollutant. The federal rule requires a slower and less stringent reduction rate and sets up a national trading system that will continue to create localized hot spots of toxins near older Pennsylvania facilities.

The National Wildlife Federation estimates that the average customer would see an increase of only \$1.08 per month if all the costs of refitted old plants were passed on to the consumer.

Yours,

Babette
Babette Josephs

BJ:ms

cc: Nathan Willcox, PennEnvironment
Arthur Stamoulis, Clean Air Council

