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Senate of Pennsylvania

July 13, 2006

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TARGETED COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION AND CRIME PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

RECEIVED
JUL 26 PM 1:55
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Mercury Emission Reduction Proposed Regulation

Dear 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 is a potent neurotoxin that persists and accumulates in the environment. It 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.

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.

Very truly yours,

John C. Rafferty, Jr.

