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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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July 18, 2006

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

I have often spearheaded efforts to make responsible environmental decisions in Pennsylvania. With my support, the Growing Greener program has made great strides in protecting and repairing Pennsylvania land, making it an attractive place for families and employers. I have also held hearings to bring awareness on global warming and promoted renewable energy solutions, including solar power and hybrid vehicle use. Cutting pollution, including mercury toxins, is extremely important to me.

Pennsylvania should move forward in adopting new, innovative technology that does not sacrifice the quality of life for future generations simply to garner short-lived industrial and financial gain now.

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,

Daylin Leach

State Representative, 149th District

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