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July 19, 2006

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Environmental Quality Board  
PO Box 8477  
Harrisburg, PA 17105

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 persistent, bio-accumulative neurotoxin that can remain active in the environment for more than 10,000 years. It endangers pregnant women, the unborn, children, subsistence fishermen and recreational anglers who are most at risk for health effects that include brain and nervous system damage in children and heart and immune system damage for adults.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan A. Surra".

Dan A. Surra  
State Representative  
75<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

cc: IRRRC  
ID #7-405 (#2547)

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