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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY  
JUDICIARY  
POLICY  
STATE GOVERNMENT  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL AND CONSERVATION  
RECYCLING FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Environmental Quality Board  
P.O. 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. Due to my high level of concern on the issue of mercury pollution, I have been a proponent of this proposal from the beginning, and have always urged support for these measures through my position as secretary of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Pennsylvania's power plants currently have the second highest mercury emissions in the country, which then pollute our numerous rivers and lakes. The consumption of mercury-contaminated fish can lead to serious health complications, and especially developmental and mental problems in children. It is unacceptable to allow this endangerment of the health of Pennsylvania's citizens to continue.

The Bush administration has weakened federal mercury regulations by allowing polluters to trade emissions credits, which just means that the mercury pollution stays here in Pennsylvania and remains a threat in our own backyard. 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,

Representative Greg Vitali  
166<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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