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BILL DEWEESE  
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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

November 15, 2006

Alvin C. Bush, Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
Harristown, 2, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Commissioner Bush:

You have before you a mercury regulation (#7-405) that has the potential to significantly impact coal production and related jobs in Pennsylvania. As you may know, the citizens of this Commonwealth rely on coal for the majority of electricity generated at our power plants. While I strongly support the regulation and reduction of mercury emissions to protect public health and the environment, it is incumbent upon us to do so in a manner that does not cause undue harm to our economy and employees of power plants and the coal industry.

This regulation has been mired in controversy. The Legislature has empowered you under section 2(a) of the Regulatory Review Act to bring such controversial issues to resolution by bringing all interested parties to a consensus. I believe that there is the ability to reach consensus, and the coal industry, power generation sector and business groups have put forth an aggressive approach to regulating mercury. In short, they are willing to meet the Department of Environmental Protection's regulatory scheme, but need a safety valve to deal with federal requirements that exceed the state's desired reduction levels.

I encourage you to disapprove the regulation before you, so that we may work together to ensure that all interests are considered and that we produce a plan that is right for Pennsylvania.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Bill DeWeese  
House Democratic Leader