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To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Rachel Renee Dolney and this is my son Julian.

I am testifying today because I would like the Pennsylvania DEP to pass the most stringent regulations possible to limit mercury emissions.

* Pennsylvania is the second highest emitter of mercury from power plants in the country; second only to Texas.

* The most common way people are exposed to poisonous mercury is through eating fish which have been exposed to mercury deposited in lakes, streams, and oceans by coal-fired power plants.

* Developing babies and small children are especially sensitive to mercury because their brains and nervous systems are still developing. Mercury can cause learning disabilities and developmental delays.

* The technology is available right now to reduce mercury pollution.

One Thanksgiving Day when I was 11 and my brother 9, my parents took us fishing. My parents loved to fish, and it was something we did as a family a lot. But this day was special: we were the only ones on the water and the fish were biting like crazy; after about the 40th catch, it became clear that this was no ordinary day. Every catch became a major event. My brother and I were dancing on the shores with glee as each new fish was reeled in. All told, we caught 79 fish that Thursday! Instead of the usual Turkey Day feast, we had a massive fish fry. I can still remember my joy at relating the event to my friends at school, how special I felt me and my family were.

As things stand, my son will never have such a memory, because I cannot let him eat fish from our rivers. I ask that you keep my son Julian in mind when you make decisions regarding the health of our waterways and our environment.

Thank You.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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