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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Hi, my name is Chris Milani. I live in Ardmore.

As the father of three young children, this issue is of great importance to me. I have been blessed with a very healthy family. My children do not have any learning disabilities or developmental disorders. I can only imagine the frustration and pain of a parent of a child with such a problem. Especially, when I know that there is so much more we can do as a society to minimize these problems. Mercury is one area where the solution is very achievable.

I think, too often, we get too deep into debates about so many Mercury-related details. Sometimes it's helpful to eliminate all of that noise and keep it simple. Mercury is a poison. Its victims are usually helpless newborn babies and young children. Why do we continue to pump mercury into the air when we know how to clean it up at a very reasonable cost? How can our President and so many US Congressman and Senators tell us how much they care about protecting the lives of the unborn and then allow power plants to continue to pump out this poison for another 20 years? We know the answer – it's all just political rhetoric. If they truly cared about the unborn and the born, something would be done now about Mercury on a Federal level.

But this isn't going to happen, so I'm thrilled that some of my State officials actually seem to care about the health of their constituents. The Pennsylvania DEP has proposed an aggressive plan to clean up Mercury in PA. I fully support this plan and will be extremely angry if it does not go forward. The power generating industry claims the costs are too high - lost jobs from more expensive electricity. My understanding is that the cost is extremely low - \$1.08 per month per household. What is the cost of delaying? How many more kids will end up with disabilities as more Mercury accumulates in our environment?

And what about this claim of lost jobs because of this \$1.08/month? It doesn't make sense to me. I'm not an economist, but I can look at history and see what happens when industry doesn't change, doesn't modernize and innovate. How many people have lost their jobs in the auto and steel industry because US companies rested on their laurels and failed to stay ahead of the curve. The way to save jobs is to invest in the future, modernize. Cleaning up Mercury emissions from coal burning plants now is one step in this process. If we really want to save jobs, make the PA coal-burning plants modernize now. Don't let them rape the Pennsylvania workers and environment, only to move somewhere else 5 or 10 years down the road when their old polluting plant isn't worth it any more.

Thank You.