

Alaska Wilderness League **** Cape Fear River Watch *** Center for Biological
Diversity *** Center for Environmental Health *** Center for the Celebration of
Creation *** Clean Water Action *** Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future ***
Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice *** Interfaith Power & Light ***
Earthjustice *** Environment America *** Environmental Defense Fund ***
Environmental Health Fund *** Greenpeace USA *** Health Care Without Harm ***
Healthy Building Network *** League of Conservation Voters *** Making Our Milk Safe
*** National Wildlife Federation *** Natural Resources Defense Council ***
PenderWatch & Conservancy *** Physicians for Social Responsibility *** Sierra Club ***
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy *** Southern Environmental Law Center *** Stop
Titan Action Network

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members, we are writing to you to express our strong opposition to H.J. Res. 9, which would overturn badly needed controls for mercury and other toxic air pollutants from cement plants. Mercury is a persistent environmental toxin that contaminates ecosystems and injures human health. Mercury exposure can cause brain damage and learning disabilities in developing fetuses and young children, and it is estimated that each year over 400,000 newborns are exposed to potentially harmful levels of mercury.*

Mercury pollution also adversely impacts wildlife and ecosystems. Mercury pollution enters waterways and begins bioaccumulating in organisms as it moves up the food chain. Just 1/70th of one teaspoon of mercury is enough to contaminate a 20 acre lake and make the fish in that lake unsuitable for human consumption. In fact, mercury contamination of rivers and lakes is the primary reason for fish consumption bans and advisories, and was responsible for over 75% of the 4200+ fish consumption advisories in 2008.**

Cement plants are the third largest manmade source of mercury pollution in the U.S., and standards to limit pollution from cement plants are long overdue. The Environmental Protection Agency finalized standards for mercury and other toxic pollutants in September 2010. Under these rules, cement plants would cut mercury pollution by 92%, or 16,400 lbs. These standards would also limit other hazardous air pollutants by 5,200 tons, and acid gases by 5,900 tons. EPA calculates that health benefits of these final standards would prevent up to 2,500 premature deaths annually.***

Using the Congressional Review Act to overturn these new health standards would substitute the public health judgments of scientists for that of politicians in Congress. Blocking this standard would mean thousands of Americans will be deprived of long overdue protections from breathing unsafe air. We strongly urge you to put the public interest ahead of special interests and the health of Americans over polluter profits by

opposing H.J. Res. 9, as well as other attempts to undercut our nation's clean air protections.

Sincerely,

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*http://www.neiwpc.org/hgconference/hg_pdfs/Kate.Mahaffey.pdf

** <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/fishshellfish/fishadvisories/fs2008.cfm>

***<http://www.epa.gov/ttnecas1/regdata/RIAs/portlandcementfinalria.pdf>