

US EPA Mercury and Air Toxics Safeguards Public Hearings

How To Prepare My Testimony

As you prepare for the US EPA Mercury and Air Toxics Safeguards Public Hearing on May XX in XXX, here are a few important tips:

- ◆ Time Limit is 5 Minutes: all testimony will be limited to this timeframe
 - **Remember this formula: 1 minute = 150 words**
 - Your 5 minute comments should not exceed 750 words
 - Write your comments down and practice them in front of the mirror, in front of friends and family, so you are familiar with what you want to say.

- ◆ Include a few key facts:
 - Sierra Club has sample talking points and factsheets on the dangers of mercury and other air toxics. Pick one or two statistics to frame your personal comments.
 - **Don't worry about highly technical information.**

- ◆ Make it personal:
 - **Use your comments to add the human face to this national problem.**
 - **Express your personal concerns about health risks to you and your family/ friends from mercury, acid gases, and other air toxics.**
 - Do you live near a coal-fired power plant that emits a lot of pollution? Or in a city with bad air quality?
 - Are you an expectant or new mother? Grandparent?
 - Do you or a loved-on suffer from cancer, respiratory illnesses, reproductive problems, neurological damage, immune system damage, or eye irritation, or asthma?
 - Are you a public health professional who serves people suffering from pollution?
 - Are you a teacher, childcare provider, or coach who works with kids who have learning disabilities?
 - Are there mercury advisories on the rivers, lakes or streams where you fish?
 - Bring photos or other visual aids to the podium, that will help you tell your story.
 - Some examples of great visuals from past hearings include
 - Stacks of petition cards
 - Photo slideshows of people holding signs in support of the rule
 - Pictures of polluting coal plants or fish kills nearby
 - Family portraits
 - Holding your baby with you at the podium, or pushing them in strollers, baby car seats, baby-bjorns. Older children also welcome.
 - Asthma inhalers, medicine bottles, healthcare bills, and medication for air-toxics related illnesses
 - Fishing rods, buckets, tackle, rubber boots, other fishing gear

- ◆ Technology:
 - EPA is allowing use of PowerPoint or overhead projectors, if requested in advance.
 - Video testimony will not be accepted by EPA.

- ◆ Bring Two Copies of your Written Testimony:
 - **Please bring TWO hard copies of your testimony to submit to the official US EPA record.** Your comments can be typed or hand-written

- ◆ Include your name and contact information:
 - Be sure your testimony includes some form of contact information, but remember, it will become a public document available online.