



June 19, 2012

Dear Senators,

Last December, we, the undersigned Latino community leaders, organizations, health professionals and concerned citizens celebrated the administration's decision to protect families by adopting historic safeguards against mercury and other toxic air pollution.

We are now writing to reiterate our support for that rule and oppose ongoing attacks to this rule by the Congressional Review Act resolution sponsored by Senator Inhofe (S.J. Res 37). This resolution would repeal the EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics standards for power plants and permanently block EPA from re-issuing similar safeguards to curb these deadly pollutants.

Mercury is one of the leading causes of preventable birth defects and power plants are the largest man-made source of mercury in this country. This rule will protect our children from increased risks of brain damage, cerebral palsy and other developmental problems. This action will also help to prevent thousands of premature deaths, heart attacks, and serious respiratory illnesses saving struggling families enormous health care costs, work days lost and much suffering.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report that Latino children have higher levels of mercury in their bodies compared with non-Hispanic white children. With 39 percent of Latinos living near a power plant, emissions controls are a critically needed and welcome safeguard.

Truly protective standards for mercury and other air toxics will reduce mercury emissions from power plants and help children nationwide avoid preventable birth defects and learning delays and have a brighter, healthier future.

We urge you oppose these attacks and protect our kids and families from dangerous air pollution by voting "No" on S.J. Res 37.

Sincerely,

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League of United Latin American
Citizens

Dr. Elena Rios
National Hispanic Medical
Association

Mark Magaña
National Latino Coalition on
Climate Change

Rafael Fantauzzi
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