

October 6, 2011

RE: Support Amendments Recognizing Need to Protect Children from Mercury Exposure

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters, we urge you to support amendments offered to H.R. 2250 by Schakowsky (#1), Blumenauer (#5), Quigley (#7), Waxman (#9), Welch (#19) and Pallone (#20), which recognize the need to protect our children from harmful toxic air pollution such as mercury, since H.R. 2250 will not.

Mercury pollution is currently posing an unacceptable threat to our communities. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that harms the brain and nervous system. It is especially dangerous to children and pregnant women. Even in low doses, mercury may affect a child's development, delaying walking and talking, shortening attention span and causing learning disabilities. At least one in 12 women – and as many as one in 6 – has dangerously high levels of mercury in their bodies. Fish consumption advisories have been issued in every state due to dangerously high levels of mercury.

The American people support cleaning up mercury pollution from industrial boilers and incinerators, the nation's third largest sources of industrial mercury pollution.

While we and our members support the objectives of the above-listed amendments and their clean-air goals, the amendments by no means fix the deadly impact of the underlying bill, H.R. 2250. We encourage you to support the above-listed amendments, but we strongly urge a **NO** vote on H.R. 2250.

Sincerely,

Clean Water Action
Conservation Law Foundation
Earthjustice
Environment America
Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council
Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center
Union of Concerned Scientists