

Center for Biological Diversity \* Earthjustice \* Environment America  
Environmental Law and Policy Center \* Environmental Defense Fund  
Greenpeace USA \* League of Conservation Voters \* League of Women Voters  
Natural Resources Defense Council \* Physicians for Social Responsibility  
U.S. Climate Action Network \* Southern Environmental Law Center \* Sierra Club

**RE: SUPPORT THE CAPPS AMENDMENT TO H.R.2584; PROTECT KIDS  
FROM TOXIC MERCURY POLLUTION.**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters we urge you to support the Capps amendment to H.R. 2584. This amendment would protect Americans from mercury, soot, and other life-threatening toxic air pollution from power plants by striking the H.R. 2584 rider delaying the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard. Allowing EPA to do its job setting standards to clean up this dangerous pollution will save tens of thousands of lives.

The Mercury rider—one of nearly 40 polluter earmarks in H.R. 2584—would delay for *at least two years* (and likely many more) the Mercury and Air Toxics standard that will help clean-up smog, soot, and toxic air pollution from power plants. Blocking the Mercury and Air Toxics standards for even *two additional years* would result in tens of thousands of lives lost; more heart attacks; more asthma attacks; 38,000 more hospital and emergency room visits; and millions of days missed from work or school.

Mercury is a brain poison that particularly affects young children and the unborn. 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.\*

Power plants are the largest manmade source of mercury, soot, and smog pollution in the U.S., and standards to limit these toxic and deadly air pollutants are long overdue.

Hijacking the budget process to push through polluter earmarks won't cut a dime from the deficit, but it will deny American's their right to breathe healthy air and ensure the health of their children. The mercury delay is but one of the many dangerous attempts in this bill to weaken public health and environmental protection to benefit special interests. Delay means death, disease, and increased healthcare costs for American families and taxpayers. Therefore we strongly urge you to put the public interest ahead of special interests and promote the health of Americans over polluter profits. Please support the Capps amendment and then oppose H.R. 2584.

###

-----  
\* [http://www.neiwpcc.org/hgconference/hg\\_pdfs/Kate.Mahaffey.pdf](http://www.neiwpcc.org/hgconference/hg_pdfs/Kate.Mahaffey.pdf)

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