

American College of Preventive Medicine • American Lung Association • American Public Health Association •  
American Thoracic Society • Boston Public Health Commission  
Hepatitis Foundation • Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment  
National Environmental Health Association • Prostate Cancer Awareness Project • Trust for America's Health

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February 15, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

We write in strong opposition to H.J. Res. 9, which would roll back limits for mercury and other toxic air pollutants from cement plants. Mercury is particularly dangerous to developing fetuses and young children. The bill, filed pursuant to the Congressional Review Act, would permanently block implementation of these standards – and would permanently bar adoption of similar ones.

As the American Academy of Pediatrics notes, “mercury in all of its forms is toxic to the fetus and children, and efforts should be made to reduce exposure to the extent possible to pregnant women and children as well as the general population.”\* Cement plants are the third-largest source of human-caused mercury emissions; rolling back mercury standards for such plants would be a step in exactly the wrong direction.

Under the standards, which the Environmental Protection Agency issued in final form in September 2010, cement plants emissions of mercury and other pollutants would fall dramatically, reducing mercury pollution by 16,400 pounds, other hazardous air pollutants by 5,200 tons, and acid gases by 5,900 tons. In addition, EPA calculates that the standards would greatly reduce fine particulate pollution from cement plants, preventing up to 2,500 premature deaths annually and saving up to \$18 billion in human health costs.\*\*

We strongly urge you to vigorously oppose this legislation, as well as other attempts to undercut the nation's environmental and health protections.

Sincerely,

American College of Preventive Medicine  
American Lung Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Thoracic Society  
Boston Public Health Commission  
Hepatitis Foundation

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the Environment  
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\*<http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/pediatrics;108/1/197.pdf>

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