



Children's
Environmental
Health
Network

Alliance of Nurses for
Healthy Environments



August 31, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler
Acting Administrator,
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler:

The undersigned health and medical organizations call on you to abandon the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's current plans to reconsider limits on mercury and other air toxics from power plants.

The existing Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) are an EPA success story. The standards have achieved a 90% reduction in mercury emissions from power plants thanks to the controls that these facilities have installed in response to the rule.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that causes brain damage, learning disabilities and birth defects in children. Other toxics reduced under the standards include carcinogens and volatile organic compounds that not only cause immediate harm, but also react to form dangerous ozone smog. The standards have also saved lives by reducing additional harmful emissions at the same time – a win-win for public health.

The standards are supported by health and medical organizations as well as by industry. They enjoy bipartisan support in Congress – indeed, just this week, Senators Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Tom Carper (D-DE) called upon your agency to maintain the MATS rule.

On behalf of the patients and communities we serve, we urge you to abandon any plans to reconsider EPA's work to limit mercury and other air toxics from power plants, including the MATS rule. Americans have nothing to gain from the rollback of these lifesaving, highly effective

standards, and many people – including pregnant women and their unborn children – have everything to lose.

Sincerely,

Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Lung Association
American Public Health Association
Children's Environmental Health Network
Health Care Without Harm
March of Dimes
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Environmental Health Association