As local elected officials representing big cities and small towns, we want to express our strong support for the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) recently issued Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for Power Plants (MATS). Mayors are on the front lines of protecting public health and this long overdue safeguard will reap tremendous benefits for our communities.

Mercury pollution, much of it coming from coal-fired power plants, represents a particularly widespread threat to families nationwide. According to your agency’s own analysis, as of 2010, all 50 states have fish consumption advisories in place to warn residents of the potential health effects of eating fish caught from local waters. Of these advisories, 81% were issued in part because of mercury pollution accumulated within the aquatic food chain.

A dangerous neurotoxin, mercury poses a particular threat to pregnant women and small children. Exposure affects a developing child’s ability to walk, talk, read, write and learn. The Center for Disease Control, along with your agency, estimate that as many as 1 in 6 women of childbearing age have high enough mercury levels in their blood to harm a developing fetus. Additionally, these rules will reduce exposure to a host of other health-threatening toxics, including arsenic, cyanide, chromium and acid gases.

EPA’s own regulatory impact review of the rules predicts it will save citizens as much as $90 billion annually when fully implemented through lower health care costs. Each year, this translates into as many as 11,000 lives saved, 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks prevented, and 5,700 hospital visits avoided.

Clean, healthy air and water are fundamental American rights and we are eager to work with your agency to ensure these historic protections are quickly implemented.

Respectfully,
Albany, NY - Gerald Jennings  
Alexandria, VA - Bill Euille  
Ann Arbor, MI - John Hieftje  
Atlanta, GA - Kasim Reed  
Austin, MN - Thomas Steihm  
Austin, TX - Lee Leffingwell  
Berea, KY - Steven Connelly  
Bethlehem Township, NJ - John Graefe  
Beverly, MA - Bill Scanlon  
Biscayne Park, FL - Noah Jacobs  
Bloomington, IN - Mark Kruzan  
Boston, MA - Thomas Menino  
Burlington, VT - Bob Kiss  
Charlottesville, VA - Satyendra Huja  
Chicago, IL - Rahm Emanuel  
Cincinnati, OH - Mark Mallory  
Cohoes, NY - John T. McDonald, III  
College Park, MD - Andrew Fellows  
Columbus, OH - Michael B. Coleman  
Cutler Bay, FL - Ed MacDougall  
Dearborn Heights, MI - Daniel S. Paletko  
Decatur, GA - Bill Floyd  
Denver, CO - Michael B. Hancock  
Duluth, MN - Don Ness  
Durham, NC - William V. "Bill" Bell  
Eden Prairie, MN - Nancy Tyra-Lukens  
Eugene, OR - Kitty Piercy  
Falcon Heights, MN - Peter Lindstrom  
Fayetteville, AR - Lioneld Jordan  
Florence, SC - Stephen J. Wukela  
Frankfort, KY - Gippy H.Graham  
Glendale, CA - Laura Friedman  
Hallandale Beach, FL - Joy Cooper  
Hampton, VA - Molly Ward  
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Henderson, NV - Andy Hafen,  
Houston, TX - Annise Parker  
Jackson, MS - Harvey Johnson, Jr.  
Jordan, MN - Pete Ewals  
La Mesa, CA - Art Madrid  
Lambertville, NJ- David DelVecchio,  
Las Vegas, NV - Carolyn Goodman  
Long Beach, NY - Jack Schnirman  
Los Angeles, CA - Antonio Villaraigosa  
Macon, GA - Robert Reichert  
Madison, WI - Paul Soglin  
Manhattan Beach, CA - Richard P. Montgomery  
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Maui County, HI - Alan M. Arakawa  
Mayfield Village, OH - Bruce G. Rinker  
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Minneapolis, MN - R.T. Rybak  
Missoula, MT - John Engen  
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Oak Park Heights, MN - David Beaudet  
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Pembroke Pines, FL - Frank C. Ortis  
Philadelphia, PA - Michael Nutter  
Phoenix, AZ - Greg Stanton  
Pinecrest, FL - Cindy Lerner  
Pittsburgh, PA - Luke Ravenstahl  
Pittsfield Charter Township, MI - Mandy Grewal  
Pleasanton, CA - Jennifer Hosterman  
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Portland, ME - Michael F. Brennan  
Portland, OR - Sam Adams  
Providence, RI - Angel Taveras  
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Sacramento, CA - Kevin Johnson  
Saint Paul, MN - Christopher B. Coleman  
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Santa Fe, NM - David Coss  
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Sauk Rapids, MN - Dave Saunders  
Savannah, GA - Edna Jackson  
Seattle, WA - Michael McGinn  
Shepherdstown, WV - Arthur III Auxer  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Tribe of the Lake  
Traverse Reservation, SD - Robert Shepherd  
South Miami, FL - Philip K Stoddard, PhD  
Takoma Park, MD - Bruce R. Williams  
Urbana, IL - Laurel Prussing  
Warren, MI - James Fouts  
Washington, DC - Vincent C. Gray  
Westland, MI - William R. Wild  
White Plains, NY - Thomas M.Roach  
Wilmington, DE - James M. Baker  
Wilmore, KY - Harold Rainwater  
Yonkers, NY - Mike Spano  
Ypsilanti, MI - Paul Schreiber