



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White
Chairman

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director

Room 168 • State Capitol Building
Mailing address: Senate Box 203021 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-3021
Phone: 717-787-9684 • FAX: 717-787-6088

July 24, 2006

Letters to the Editor
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
34 Boulevard of the Allies
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Dear Editor:

Your editorial assailing the state Senate's recent vote to cut mercury pollution (*Mad as a Hatter*) typifies the attitude of those opposed to sensible mercury reductions.

Opponents of the legislation which passed the Senate have simply failed to make a compelling case of how the DEP mercury rule will provide any added public health benefit over SB 1201.

They also ignore other facts: SB 1201 requires an 86% mercury emission reduction by 2018, and mercury emissions from Pennsylvania power plants are already down 33% since 1999. You unfortunately also ignore projections for faster and deeper cuts in mercury emissions due to incentives provided by a trading program. My committee held three hearings on this issue; your readers ought to check out this information for themselves at www.senatormjwhite.com.

Mercury emissions will continue to decline in Pennsylvania. Four major power generators have announced over \$2 billion in new, state-of-the-art pollution controls at Pennsylvania power plants – including three announcements in just the past month. Senate Bill 1201 protects the public health, but without the negative impact inflicted by the DEP rule on jobs, electricity rates and generating capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo White".

Mary Jo White, Chairman
Senate Environmental Resources
& Energy Committee
169 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
717-787-9684