



# Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

**Senator Mary Jo White**  
Chairman

*Patrick Henderson, Executive Director*

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March 20, 2006

Melody Zullinger, Executive Director  
PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs  
2426 North Second Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Ms. Zullinger:

Thank you for sharing with us a copy of the PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs' letter to the legislative leadership concerning efforts to reduce mercury emissions from power plants.

As chair and Democratic chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, and members of the Environmental Quality Board, we have been following this issue closely for some time. We strongly support a significant reduction in mercury emissions. As you know, the United States has become the first nation in the world to regulate mercury emissions from power plants. The Commonwealth is currently in the process of implementing a mercury reduction standard, and must report its progress in doing so to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by November of this year.

The federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) calls on Pennsylvania power plants to reduce mercury emissions by 86% no later than 2018. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has proposed a 90% reduction, with a shorter timeframe than envisioned by the EPA. Additionally, DEP does not propose to permit emission credit trading.

There are legitimate questions members of the General Assembly have regarding DEP's proposal. How best to implement the CAMR standard, whether to require additional reductions, and the impact this will have on the Commonwealth's environment, citizens' health, economy and consumer costs are all important factors to consider. It is imperative that the General Assembly be involved in crafting the most appropriate mercury reduction rule for Pennsylvania. Equally important is the ability of legislators and others to raise questions and engage in a serious debate on this issue without concern over questions of their commitment to our environment or the health of Pennsylvanians. To that end, we would welcome your input throughout this process.

Thank you again for your interest in this important subject.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo White, Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources  
& Energy Committee

Raphael J. Musto, Democratic Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources  
& Energy Committee