



# Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

Senator Mary Jo White  
Chairman

*Patrick Henderson, Executive Director*

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June 19, 2006

Letters to the Editor  
Philadelphia Daily News  
Box 7788  
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Editor:

Your recent editorial (Air Dud) misses the mark. Unfortunately the Daily News did not pay attention to any of the public hearings held by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on reducing mercury emissions from Pennsylvania coal-fired power plants.

Under the Senate Bill, mercury emissions will be reduced by 86%. They are already down 33% from Pennsylvania power plants since 1999. Unlike the Rendell plan, however, Senate Bill 1201 will provide flexibility to meet these emission reductions in as cost-effective and efficient manner as possible. The primary concern with the Rendell plan is that it could cost us jobs, raise our energy prices and reduce our generating capacity all without providing any added health benefit.

Legislators have families, and they are just as concerned about people's health as anyone else. We are also concerned with facts. Your editorial claims that we are interested in letting our children continue to suck in mercury. However, the Daily News already knows – from a previous letter – that mercury poses no threat from inhalation. It must be ingested through eating fish. We also know that by 2015, 90% of Pennsylvania's generating capacity will have controls in place to reduce mercury emissions.

Finally, the comment that the Bush Administration has actually weakened mercury emission regulations is ridiculous. How can you weaken a standard that did not exist? Under President Bush, the United States is the only nation in the world to mandate mercury emission reductions from power plants – something the Clinton Administration failed to do for eight years.

Legislators should cut through the misinformed rhetoric, and do what is best for the health of Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Jo White, Chairman  
Senate Environmental Resources  
& Energy Committee