

June 18, 2019

RE: Please vote YES on Schrier Amendment #63 to stop EPA roll back of Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS)

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our millions of members across the country, we respectfully request that you vote **YES** on **Rep. Schrier's amendment #63** to the **Interior-EPA Omnibus Appropriations Bill, H.R. 3055**. The Schrier amendment would prevent EPA from finalizing its revised "appropriate and necessary" finding, ensuring the standards can remain in place to protect public health and the environment, and do not undermine the investments made by the power sector and pollution control companies to meet the standards.

The Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) were finalized in 2011 to reduce toxic air emissions from power plants. Pollutants reduced by MATS include mercury, arsenic, lead, chromium, acid gas and lethal particulates. These standards reduce some of the most hazardous air pollutants emitted by power plants, including pollutants known to cause cancer, or birth or reproductive impacts, cardiovascular impacts, respiratory impacts, impaired brain development in children and other harms to human health. Mercury emissions from power plants have also been found to accumulate in both saltwater and freshwater fish leading to consumption advisories across the nation. Due to this pollution, sales of the once highly popular large predatory fish have plummeted in recent years—hurting the commercial fishing industry.

Fortunately, largely because of MATS, mercury emissions from power plants have declined **86** percent from 2010 to 2017. MATS is estimated to annually prevent up to **11,000** deaths, **130,000** asthma attacks among children, and **4,700** heart attacks. The standards provide tens of billions of dollars in health benefits every year and the power sector is meeting the standards at lower cost than anticipated.

MATS enjoys strong public support and constituencies including health and medical associations, conservation groups, environmental justice groups, Tribes, faith organizations, the NAACP, organizations representing Latino and Hispanic communities, the power industry, labor organizations, and environmental organizations support leaving MATS in place. The power sector has complied with the standards and has gone on record strongly opposing EPA's proposal that jeopardizes continuation of MATS. EPA's efforts to undermine these standards not only gravely threaten human health, but they also undermine regulatory certainty for industry who has made investments to comply.

We thank Rep. Schrier and co-sponsors Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Kathy Castor for their leadership in offering this important amendment to protect our public health and communities, and respectfully urge you to vote YES.

Sincerely,

Moms Clean Air Force

Environmental Defense Fund

Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

Clean Water Action

Climate Hawks Vote

Earthjustice

Elders Climate Action

Endangered Species Coalition

Environment America

Green The Church

Hip Hop Caucus

American Independent Business Alliance

Interfaith Power & Light

League of Conservation Voters

Make the Road Nevada

Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association

Mi Familia Vota

National Hispanic Medical Association

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Ohio Environmental Council

Physicians for Social Responsibility, Chicago Chapter

Save EPA

Sierra Club

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth

US PIRG

Women of Wellbriety, Int'l