



RE: PROTECT KIDS FROM TOXIC MERCURY POLLUTION--SUPPORT THE CAPPS AMENDMENT TO H.R.2584

Dear Representative,

As members and leaders of the undersigned Latino organizations committed to efforts that support our community's health, economic advancement, safety and well-being, and the concerned constituents who we represent, we urge you to support the Capps amendment to H.R. 2584.

This amendment would allow EPA to do its job setting standards to protect our communities from mercury, soot, and other life-threatening toxic air pollution from power plants by striking the H.R. 2584 rider delaying the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard.

Mercury is a brain poison that can cause brain damage and learning disabilities in developing fetuses and young children. It is estimated that each year over 400,000 newborns are exposed to potentially harmful levels of mercury.

The Mercury rider—one of nearly 40 polluter earmarks in H.R. 2584—would delay the Mercury and Air Toxics standard for *at least two years* and likely many more). Blocking the Mercury and Air Toxics standards for even *two additional years* would result in tens of thousands of lives lost; more heart attacks; more asthma attacks; 38,000 more hospital and emergency room visits; and millions of days missed from work or school.

Power plants are the largest manmade source of mercury, soot, and smog pollution in the U.S., and standards to limit these toxic and deadly air pollutants are long overdue.

Sacrificing our health through polluter earmarks won't help us get a handle on the deficit. Instead, this irresponsible maneuvering will deny our communities their right to breathe healthy air and threaten the health of our children.

The mercury delay is one of the many dangerous attempts in this bill to weaken public health and environmental protection to benefit special interests. We strongly urge you to put the public interest ahead of special interests and promote the health of Americans over polluter profits.

Please **support** the Capps amendment and **oppose H.R. 2584**. Our community is counting on you to protect our health.

Sincerely,

Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norteamérica (COFEM)
National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)
National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services (TEJAS)
Voces Verdes

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