



December 21, 2011

Dear President Barack Obama,

We, the undersigned Latino community leaders, organizations, health professionals and concerned citizens would like to thank you and Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator, for acting on behalf of our health and the health of our families by adopting historic safeguards against mercury and other toxic air pollution.

It is well known that mercury is one of the leading causes of preventable birth defects. With this rule, you have helped to protect our children from increased risks of brain damage, cerebral palsy and other developmental problems. This action will also help to prevent thousands of premature deaths, heart attacks, and serious respiratory illnesses saving struggling families enormous health care costs, work days lost and much suffering.

This rule is especially important to the Latino community because according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Latino children have higher levels of mercury in their bodies compared with non-Hispanic white children. With 39 percent of Latinos living near a power plant, emissions controls are a critically needed and welcome safeguard.

Truly protective standards for mercury and other air toxics will reduce mercury emissions from power plants and will help Latino children across the country to avoid preventable birth defects and learning delays and have a brighter, healthier future and call on our congressional representatives to stop their attempts to sacrifice the lives and health of Americans.

Sincerely,

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Voces Verdes

Brent Wilkes
League of United Latin American Citizens

Dr. Elena Rios
National Hispanic Medical Association

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National Latino Coalition on Climate Change

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