



Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
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March 14, 2006

Senator David J. Brightbill
Senate Box 203048
Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3048

Representative Samuel H. Smith
Main Capitol Building, Room 110
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Senator Brightbill and Representative Smith:

As organizations that represent a large portion of the nearly 2 ½ million sportsmen and women in Pennsylvania who treasure the state's fish, wildlife, and outdoor recreational opportunities, we are writing in support of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) efforts to control mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. We are deeply concerned about recent comments by members of both the House and Senate that the DEP's approach to reducing mercury emissions should not go forward.

Mercury contamination in fish poses serious risks to all citizens, especially expecting mothers and children. Like lead, exposure to even small amounts of mercury can affect the way kids learn, think, memorize and behave. Unfortunately, mercury levels in Pennsylvania are so high that the state has issued advisories warning people, especially women and children, to avoid or limit eating fish from all of Pennsylvania's waterways.

Mercury pollution imperils the state's streams, fish and wildlife. Left unchecked, mercury pollution threatens to damage the state's \$1.6 billion sport fishing industry. Additionally, recent research has also discovered higher levels of mercury in forest songbirds as well as fish-eating wildlife, indicating that Pennsylvania's wood dwelling species may also be at risk.

We agree that mercury pollution is a global problem. However, 83 percent - nearly 8,000 pounds - of mercury pollution in Pennsylvania comes from in-state coal-fired power plants. In fact, Pennsylvania is home to some of the nation's highest mercury emitters. Studies in Florida, Wisconsin and New Hampshire have shown that reducing mercury emissions directly results in lower levels of mercury in fish living by a regulated smokestack. It is clear that controlling local sources of mercury pollution will result in local health benefits to the residents and wildlife of the Commonwealth.

The effects of mercury pollution are incontestable. Technology exists to limit mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants to safe levels for people and wildlife. Failing to move quickly to address this problem will leave future generations of people and wildlife at risk from the harmful effects of mercury exposure.

We urge you to forego any efforts in the legislature to short-circuit the DEP's rulemaking process.

Respectfully,

Melody Zullinger, Executive Director of PFSC
Bob Pennell, Vice President, PA Council of Trout Unlimited
The undersigned 108 clubs representing over 33,000 sportsmen & women in Pennsylvania

Adams County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
David A. Swope
Adams County

Adams County Fish & Game Association
Jim Shorb
Adams County

Adams County Trout Unlimited
Donald Weaver
Adams County

Allegheny Plateau Chapter - NWTF
Andy Gelles
Cambria County

American Hunting Dog
John Russel
Bucks County

Apollo-Springs Church Sportsmen
Rocco Ali
Armstrong County

Bally Sportsman's Association
Charles Glackin
Berks County

Barren Acres Rod & Gun
Merle Wilkinson
Luzerne County

Beartown Sportsmen Association
Warren Peachey
Lancaster County

Beaverdale Sportsman's Association
Bernie Brown
Cambria County

Beaverdam Conservation Group
Jody Beyer
Cambria County

Belfast-Edelman Sportsman Association
Allen Flory
Northampton County

Berks Bassmasters
Walter Palm
Berks County

Black Forest Conservation Association
Paul Lilja
Potter County

Blue Mountain Fish & Game
Herbert Santee
Northampton County

Blue Mountain Fish & Game Association
Nelson Angstadt
Northampton County

Blue Mountain Rod & Gun Club
Norman H. Graver
Northampton County

Blue Ridge – Cherry Valley Rod & Gun Club
Sam Rhody
Monroe County

Blue Ridge Rod & Gun Club
Lee Marsh
Northampton County

Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Association
Paul Mummert
Adams County

Boulder Valley Sportsmen Association
Joseph Kleiner
Montgomery County

Buchanan Valley Rod & Gun Club Inc.
Ray Slothow
Adams County

Buffalo Valley Sportsmen Association
Bill Emerson
Armstrong County

Cambria County Federation of Sportsmen
Dwight Weaver
Cambria County

Canawacta Rod & Gun Club
Calvin Yoder
Susquehanna County

Carrolltown Rod & Gun Club
Dave Thomas
Cambria County

Clinton County Federation of Sportsmen

Laurel Anders (Garlicki)

Clinton County

Columbia County Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Brad Berlin

Columbia County

Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association

Gil Freedman

Cumberland County

Coventry Brethren Hunt Club

Lester High

Chester County

Cresson Community Sportsmen's Association

Robert Harris

Cambria County

Cushion Peak Rod & Gun

John R. Shobert

Berks County

Daisytown Sportsmen's Club

Dwight Weaver

Cambria County

Daniel Boone Rod and Gun Club

Carl Day

Berks County

Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association

Joe Cortright

Northampton County

Del-Val Chapter of the American Hunting Dog Club

John J. Russell

Bucks County

Donegal Fish & Conservation Association

Walter Stoner

Lancaster County

Dunlo Rod & Gun Club

Jody Beyer

Cambria County

East Bath Rod & Gun Club

Lee Marsh

Northampton County

East Berlin Fish & Game

Joe Anderson

Adams County

Easton Fish & Game Association

John Hershey

Northampton County

Edgewood Sportsmen's Club

Chas Weigard

Luzerne County

Erie's Efficiency & Solar Society

Bruce Arkwright Jr

Erie County

Forbes Trail Trout Unlimited

Ken Vallino

Westmoreland County

Forks of the Delaware Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Ryan Rush

Northampton County

Gallitzin Sportsmen's Association

Pete Plunkett

Cambria County

Georgetown Conservation Club

Chester Stavish

Luzerne County

Gooseberry Hollow Rod & Gun Club

John Riley

Monroe County

Greensprings Rod & Gun Club

Michael Zinn

Adams County

Harford Rod and Gun Club

Joe Morrison

Susquehanna County

Hellertown Sportsmen's Association

Marty Wallach

Northampton County

Hokendauqua Chapter of Trout Unlimited

John Mauser

Northampton County

Johnstown Rifle & Pistol Club Inc.

Robb Piper
Cambria County

Johnstown Sportsmen's Association Inc.

Richard Fleck
Cambria County

Kelly Station Sportsman Club

William Sheaskey
Armstrong County

Keystone Rod & Gun Club

Scott Westcott
Northampton County

Langhorne Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

Mel Walts
Bucks County

Laurel Run Rod & Gun Club

Carl Bodenschatz
Cambria County

Lehigh Valley Herpetological Society

Andy Curtis
Northampton County

Littlestown Fish & Game Association Inc.

Mike Poore
Adams County

Lower Mount Bethel Township Rod & Gun Club

Bruce Macdougall
Northampton County

Luzerne County FSC

Jerry Schutz
Luzerne County

Matamoras Rod & Gun Club

Chuck Lombaerde
Pike County

Mc Michael's Hunting Club

Dale Johnson
Monroe County

McSherrystown Fish & Game

Don Weaver
Adams County

Meadville Sportsman's Club

Keith Snow
Crawford County

Menoher Heights Sportsmen's Club

Stephen Uranich
Cambria County

Mercer County Coonhunters

Ed Steckler
Mercer County

Monroe County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Jim Price
Monroe County

Moss Creek Rod & Gun

Darby Hughes
Cambria County

Mount Joy Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

Walter Stoner
Lancaster County

Mountain Laurel Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Tony Miirilovich Jr.
Cambria County

Mountain Watershed Association

Beverly Braverman
Westmoreland and Fayette Counties

Mummasburg Athletic Association

Tim Kane
Adams County

Muncy Camp IREM

Charles Sipple
Schuylkill County

Nanticoke Conservation Club

Philip Levindoski
Luzerne County

Nescopeck Hunting & Rifle Club

Robert Williams
Luzerne County

New Milford Rifle and Pistol Club

Lew Davy
Susquehanna County

North Montour Sportsmen's Club

Gary Lewis
Montour County

Northampton County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Norman H. Graver
Northampton County

Northeastern Bass

Bing Dull
Monroe County

Northwest PA Chapter of Trout Unlimited

James Pfendler
Erie County

Nuangola Rod & Gun Club

Daniel Roman
Luzerne County

NWTF - Jerry Zimmerman Memorial Chapter

Scott Richards
Lehigh County

NWTF - Walking Purchase Chapter

Lowell Albright
Northampton County

Oil Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Linda Steiner
Venago County

PA Boating Association-SE Region

Rex Beers
Philadelphia County

PA Trappers Association, District 10

John Flory
Northampton County

Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Melody Zullinger
Statewide

Pennsylvania State Council of Trout Unlimited

Ken Undercoffer
Statewide

Pleasant Ridge Hunting Club

Steve Zwarych
Monroe County

Pocono Heights Club

Carl Weiss
Monroe County

Pocono Paradise Gun Club

George Werkheiser
Monroe County

Point Phillips Rod & Gun Club

Norman H. Graver
Northampton County

Raubsville Sportsmen

Bruce Weidner
Northampton County

Saucon Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Brian Cort
Northampton County

Sportsmen of Lackawanna County

Bob Banks
Lackawanna County

Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Bill Brusse
Centre County

Stockertown Rod & Gun Club

Harry Clewell
Northampton County

Tobyhanna Conservation Association

William Leonard
Monroe County

Topton Fish & Game

Dan Hartzell
Berks County

Tower Mountain Club, Inc.

Kerry Merrerle
Luzerne County

Tri-State Citizens Mining Network

Mimi Filippelli
Washington County

Wacky Worm Bassmasters

Mike Duggings
Monroe County

West Taylor Hunting & Fishing Club

Dan Misner
Cambria County

Williams Township Sportsmen's Association

Clarence Deemer
Northampton County

Winola Lake Fisherman's Club

Bob Banks
Lackawanna County

Youghiogeny Riverkeepers

Beverly Braverman
Westmoreland and Fayette Counties