

October 2, 2008

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S. William Becker

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

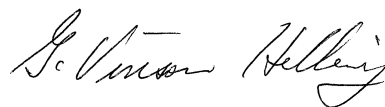
On behalf of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) we urge you to sign the Mercury Export Ban of 2008 (S. 906), which bans the export of elemental mercury, prohibits federal agencies from selling or distributing mercury and directs the Department of Energy to provide permanent storage for domestic stocks of mercury. This legislation, which had bi-partisan sponsorship and support, passed overwhelmingly in both houses of Congress.

As the national association of state and local clean air agencies, NACAA is very concerned about mercury emissions. It is well known that mercury is a powerful neurotoxin that accumulates in the food chain and can cause damage to the brain and nervous system when ingested. Certain vulnerable populations, such as pregnant women, fetuses and children are most at risk from such exposure. Additionally, recent studies indicate that exposure to certain forms of mercury may produce adverse cardiovascular effects in adults and children.


The Mercury Export Ban of 2008 will help ensure that mercury that has been captured in the United States via recycling and other means will not be exported to other countries where it could be allowed to re-enter the environment. Emissions of mercury in other countries, in addition to posing a danger to the population in those areas, could result in a threat to public health in the United States as well. Because mercury is volatile, even if it enters the atmosphere in other parts of the world, it could be deposited here in our country.

We ask that you help our nation to reduce this threat to public health by signing the Mercury Export Ban of 2008 as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Vinson Hellwig
Michigan
Co-Chair
NACAA Air Toxics Committee



Robert Colby
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Co-Chair
NACAA Air Toxics Committee