



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

June 15, 2012

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Oppose Senator Inhofe's Radical Resolution Permanently Voiding Public Health Protections (S.J. Res. 37)

Dear Senator:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to vote NO on S.J. Res. 37, the Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval sponsored by Senator James Inhofe that voids the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants. This extreme measure will cost lives and threaten the health of thousands of Americans.

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants in December. Required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, this long overdue public health safeguard sets for the first time national limits on mercury and other harmful air toxins, including acid gases, lead, and arsenic that are emitted from oil and coal-burning power plants. Once fully implemented in 2016, this standard will prevent up to 11,000 premature deaths, thousands of heart attacks and over 100,000 asthma attacks each year.

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, especially dangerous to children and expectant mothers, and fish consumption advisories have been issued throughout the nation due to high mercury levels. Power plants are the single largest source of mercury pollution in the United States.

The CRA resolution is a radical legislative tool and, if successful, prohibits the EPA from ever taking similar steps in the future to protect communities from this harmful pollution spewing from power plants.

LCV strongly urges you to reject this radical resolution that will increase harmful air pollution, cost lives, drive up health care costs, and permanently tie the hands of the EPA. We will strongly consider including the vote on this resolution in the 2012 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld, Sara Chieffo, or Alex Taurel in my office at (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski
President