

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Committee on Blackfly



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MAY 01 2006

EPCB STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board
Attn: Mercury Task Force
100 W Randolph St, 11-500
Chicago, IL 60601

Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear B. 20-05

R06-25

Nationally, forty-five states have health warnings for eating locally-caught fish due to mercury. In many states, these warnings include all fish and all waters. We call on you to address, by all means possible, the substantial mercury pollution problem we face today.

• One-in-six women of child-bearing age – over 630,000 – have blood mercury levels that can poison her developing child.

• Nationally, estimates on the economic impacts to taxpayers for the effects of mercury poisoning range as high as \$43.8 billion dollars per year.

• Technology exists that would protect the health and safety of our communities by reducing mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants by 90% or more, and

• Alternatives exist for most mercury-containing products or purposeful uses.

We need swift, comprehensive action to effectively deal with mercury pollution. We call upon you to initiate actions to address this problem at all levels.

Respectfully yours,

PC#155

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