

Regarding Case No. R2006-025

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

Earth Team  
Belle Aire School  
3925 Belle Aire Lane  
Downers Grove, IL 60515

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

April 20, 2006

Illinois Pollution Control Board  
(via IL PIRG )

In Re: Proposal to restrict coal-burning power plants mercury emissions

Dear Board Members:

Governor Blagojevich has proposed to sharply reduce mercury emissions from coal plants in Illinois.

Mercury pollution can cause extensive damage to humans, particularly to the brains of developing fetuses and children. Mercury from air pollution eventually accumulates in high concentrations in our fish. Fish is usually recommended as a healthy source of protein, without unhealthy fat. But children and others who eat fish in Illinois often receive harmful doses of mercury.

You are expected to hear from industry opposing the new regulations. However, please keep in mind that the issue is about the health and brain development of our children.

The Earth Team of Belle Aire School, a K-12 public school in Downers Grove, DuPage County, took on this topic in March. After learning about the mercury issue, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students enthusiastically took action on the issue. They wrote individual letters expressing their opinions on the dangers of mercury pollution in their own words.

Please read these letters carefully and consider the concerns of these capable and thoughtful children. Be aware that the Earth Team of Belle Aire School supports the Governor's efforts to reduce mercury pollution. We hope you will do so, as well.

Sincerely,



Patricia Burke, M.D.  
Leader of Earth Team and  
Chairman, Environmental Committee,  
of Belle Aire School

enclosure: 20 letters from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear Board Members,

Please help us get a strong law.  
Mercury is very harmful especially to  
children. It hurts their brains. It also harmful  
to the fish and fish are very healthy.  
If the fish have mercury, we could not  
eat them. Please help. Thank you  
for reading this letter and have  
a nice day ☺

Belle Aire School  
Grade 5  
Melody

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board  
5/12/06

IL Pollution Control Board

Dear Board members,

Please make a mercury Pollution control law because mercury is bad for children, mercury is bad food for fish. Fish is healthy for you but mercury makes it bad fish. It is bad for pregnant women to eat fish with mercury because the mercury goes to your brain. Thank you

Sincerely yours, Harrison,  
Belle Aire school Age 10

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Wed. March 8, 2006

Dear IL Pollution Control Board,

I was wondering if you could help us get a strong law about mercury pollution. Mercury can hurt children like me, and it effects the ocean. Some of the fish we eat contain some mercury, and it could damage everybody's brain. Mercury also effects the fishing industry. Some fish might be too ~~poisonous~~ <sup>poisonous</sup> to eat. Mercury can also effect unborn babies if the mercury gets to them. You might think it is very expensive to do this, but think about other people getting hurt, or the environment. Think about all the things getting damaged because of mercury. Thank you for reading this letter.

From,

~~Justin~~ Justine grade 4 Belle Aire

TO: The Illinois Pollution  
Control Board

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

3/8/06 Dear Board Members,  
Please we need a strong  
law because Mercury can hurt us.  
It is very dangerous so I encourage  
you to make it a strong law. I know it  
is expensive but my earth team can raise  
money for discontinuing it. Thank you  
very much for your concern.

Yours  
Truly,



A.J.C. 4th Grade  
(Belle aire Earth Team)

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

March 3, 2006

Dear I L Pollution Control Board

~~I am a~~ Please help us get a strong law on mercury so me and my family will be safe. Mercury is deadly to us kids. We would love to eat fish with out have to ~~worry~~ worry. We would help if you could help get the law. Thank you for your coroperation.

Sincerely  
Alex  
grade 5  
Belle Aire  
school

Thanks again!

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

March 8 06

Dear Dord Members

Please make a law to help stop  
Mercury. It can dange ~~kid-kind~~ kids  
brains. It also damages the fish  
and fishing compiness. It would also  
harm are future. Thank you

from,  
Sam 5T Belle Aire

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board  
3/8/06

IL pollution control Board

Dear Board members,

Please we need a strong Law

because mercury can ~~that~~ hurtthe people in <sup>the</sup> USA. Also it is veryvery ~~danger~~ dangerous. For you tomake a strong Law. ~~I know it is~~~~very expensive but our earth raise~~~~money~~ Also some people ~~may~~ might  
die.

Thank you from:

Lauren :

Belle Air school

4-C



TO: I L Pollution Control Board

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board  
3/8/06

Dear Board members,

You will make a strong law to stop mercury. It is killing people and animals. Every thing you have tried it fix but mercury. People who make lectricetey it lets mercury in to the air. Then it rains and get in the water and fish. Next we eat The Fish And Died. So stop killing us.

from,  
Ericka

Belle Air School

P.S. Thank You for your time.

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

3/8/06 MAY 12 2006  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear Illinois Pollution Board,

Please help ~~us~~ our country  
get a law about mercury pollution,  
because mercury can get in the air and  
when it rains the mercury can get  
in the fish. Then when people eat  
the fish it will damage the brain.  
Thank you.

Sincerely

Justin F.  
Fourth grade  
Belle Aire.

March 8 2006

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear Board Members,

Can you please write a strong law on  
Mercury pollution. It hurts our nations  
children's brains. It also is harmful for our  
fish. Fish is healthy but we don't want to eat  
it if we're it is going to harm our brothers  
and sisters. It is also harming the fishing  
societies, that is how they get their money.  
Please ~~that~~ think about it and have a  
nice day.

Sincerely Yours, Jori

age 11 Belle Aire

5-8-06

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Ill Pollution controll  
board

Dear Pollution controll  
board,

Please stop mercury from  
polluting our world. Mercury  
can kill fish and that will  
effect our fishing industry.  
It can also hurt childrens  
brains. Please make a law for  
mercury.

Thank you.

Leo

Belle Aire School  
Grade 4

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Wed, March 8, 2006

Dear IL Pollution Control Board,

Please make a ~~law~~ mercury pollution control law because ~~f~~ it is very bad. If the mercury gets into fish, then ~~the~~ people can't eat alot of fish, but people should eat fish because it is very good for people, but people can't eat fish because of the mercury. Thank you and my name is Elizabeth and I am 9 years old, I am in 4th grade, and I go to Belle Aire School.

3/7/06

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

IL POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD

Dear Board

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

I want you to make a strong law to protect the people from Mercury. I really think you should make this law because Mercury can hurt people, especially children. It's healthy to eat fish but we can't eat lots of fish because most fish have Mercury. So please, make a strong law to protect people from Mercury. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Veronica  
Belle Aire School  
Grade 4

TO: IL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

Dear Board Members,

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

3-8-06

I am very concerned about the fate of our young children and unborn babies. The high amount of Mercury in fish is greatly harming them.

I suggest that you make a strong law against this pollution, so that we will protect the citizens of our state. This is one step that will aid our people, that ultimately aids everything. So please make a rule against Mercury. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Allison,

Belle Aire School

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

3/9/06

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

IL ~~DO~~  
POLLUTION  
CONTROL BOARD

Dear Board

I want you to make a  
STRONG Law to protect the  
people from Mercury. I really  
wish you would make this  
Law because Mercury can  
hurt people especily children.  
Thank you,

Sincerely,  
Rose

Belle Aire school  
4<sup>th</sup> grade



RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear IL Pollution,  
I think that you should stop  
polluting the water. People  
like to go fishing and when  
they catch the fish people  
eat the fish. That causes  
them to die.

Thanks,  
Amanda  
March 8, 2006  
Fourth Grade  
Belle Air school.

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Illinois Pollution

Control Board

Dear Board Members,

Please help us to stop the mercury pollution. Please make a strong law to protect children from mercury. Mercury is not helping us, the environment and all kinds of fish. Thank you!

Earth Team, Belle Aire School

Monica 5<sup>th</sup>

IL Pollution 3/8/06 Control Board

**RECEIVED**  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear Board Members:

Please help ~~to~~ by enforcing the law of controlling mercury. It is a very important law for everyone. For women, men, teenagers, and even kid. It also is important for the fish. If we eat fish and they have mercury in them it is ~~very~~ not very health. Thank you very much.

Ronald  
Grade 5  
Belle Aire

To: the IL Pollution  
Control Board

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006  
members  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

3/8/06

Dear Board

Please we need a  
strong law to not put  
mercury into the air.  
It is hurting kids brains.  
Can you please do something.

Thank you

Thank you,

Carly H grade

Belle Air School

March 8

RECEIVED  
CLERK'S OFFICE

MAY 12 2006

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
Pollution Control Board

Dear Population Control Board,

Mercury pollution can  
get in the air and then  
get in the water.

Next,  
when we catch the fish and  
eat them we will get sick.

Taylor  
Fourth grade  
Belle Alu