



December 21, 2022

The President
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

The undersigned public health, medical and health care organizations urge you to finalize the finding that the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS) are appropriate and necessary without further delay. To protect public health and environmental justice, this final rule must be issued by the end of 2022.

We appreciated the early spotlight you shone on the Mercury and Air Toxics standards when you first took office. These fully implemented standards are a public health success story, reducing dangerous emissions of mercury and air toxics from the power sector. These gains are particularly important for communities with coal- or oil-fired power plants nearby, which are disproportionately likely to be communities of color. Our organizations commented before EPA in strong support of the agency's proposal to restore the finding that the MATS are appropriate and necessary. We further urged EPA to then set even stronger standards to further reduce air toxic emissions from the power sector.

However, this process has been dangerously delayed. The final rule to restore the appropriate and necessary finding has yet to be released. Your administration's regulatory agenda listed the

final rule as coming out by the end of 2022. This timeline is already dramatically later than we had originally called for. It is imperative that you finalize this rule by the end of the year without further delay.

We further urge your administration to act without further delay to complete the residual risk and technology review, which you originally called for to be proposed by August 2021. As successful as the MATS have been in cleaning up dangerous pollution, these standards need to be strengthened. Power plants are still the nation's largest emitter of mercury and many other hazardous air pollutants, and EPA's 2021 data on power plant emissions showed large increases in all the pollutants tracked over the previous year, including mercury. Some specific plants showed staggering increases of nearly threefold in mercury emissions.

These plants are creating real harm to communities nearby right now. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin that causes irreversible brain damage in developing fetuses. Other hazardous air pollutants emitted from coal- and oil-fired power plants cause cancer, chronic health disorders and harm to the central nervous system. Communities simply can't wait any longer for stronger protections.

We stand with your administration's stated goals of protecting health from harmful pollution and promoting environmental justice. These goals demand that you finalize the Appropriate and Necessary Finding in 2022 and complete the Residual Risk and Technology Review without delay to put in place stronger standards and better protect babies, children and others most at risk.

Signed,

Academic Pediatric Association
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Thoracic Society
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Children's Environmental Health Network
Climate for Health
Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health
Medical Students for a Sustainable Future
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Environmental Health Association
National League for Nursing
National Medical Association
Physicians for Social Responsibility
Public Health Institute