

Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Evey Mengelkoch from Grayville, IL. I am with Change the Chamber and the US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, and I strongly support the EPA's proposal to strengthen its Mercury and Air Toxics Standards as quickly as possible. I live in an area with a long history of oil and coal mining, but we must consider the impacts coal- and oil-fired power plants have on our communities and environment. The ability to limit pollution from these plants exists and makes economic sense. Additionally, I am a sufferer of adult asthma and am more vulnerable to negative health impacts from air pollution. According to the Sierra Club, pollution from nearby coal-fired power plants, most notably the TVA Shawnee plant in Kentucky, kills 3 people every 4 years on average in my small, rural county.

The proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards would reduce pollution by 82 pounds of mercury; 800 tons of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}); 8,800 tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂); 8,700 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x); and 5 million tons of carbon pollution (CO₂) by 2035, according to the EPA. These pollutants are currently released at the expense of vulnerable populations including children, BIPOC and low-income communities, and people with disabilities so that fossil fuel companies can profit more by not limiting pollution as they could and will with these proposed standards. This creates ever-increasing social costs through the neglect of these companies to properly invest in pollution abatement measures.

Additionally, more than 80 hazardous air pollutants identified by the Clean Air Act for control are also released from these power plants. These pollutants can cause the environmental harms discussed this evening and also lead to cancer, respiratory damage, damage to the kidneys, lungs, and nervous system; cause cardiovascular disease; and lead to premature death in our communities. They can also cause birth defects and developmental delays in affected children. If properly addressed through the proposed standards, cleaning up mercury and other air toxics is projected to lead to \$170 to \$220 million in annualized health benefits and a further \$170 million in annualized climate benefits. Many plants already meet the proposed standards, so these benefits will come from those that do not. If the EPA strengthened the standard to no more than six-one thousandths of a pound/one million BTUs of mercury, which I strongly support, its own modelling shows that this level would increase health and climate benefits to over \$1 billion dollars annually, and still remain nearly three times greater than

compliance costs. Additionally, I call on the EPA to apply these new standards to facilities that burn waste coal, one of the dirtiest forms of energy that exists.

We need strong standards for all hazardous air pollutants, including mercury, as soon as possible to deliver clean air, clean water, and a healthy climate for all. By finalizing the strongest possible Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, your administration can clean up toxic power plant pollution that harms vulnerable populations and those living closest to polluting power plants. I urge you to strengthen and finalize the proposed Mercury and Air Toxics Standards no later than April 2024.