

Andrew Wheeler, Acting Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Wheeler,

For many years we have worked to protect pregnant mothers and the unborn against exposure to mercury. In 2012 we supported the Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury Rule. Now the EPA is planning on overturning the regulation. We urge you to reconsider this action.

Our commitment to Jesus Christ compels us to do all we can to protect unborn children from mercury poisoning. "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" (Matthew 19:14) The psalmist wrote, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." (Psalm 139:13)

As evangelical Christians, we believe that all human life is sacred; that each person conceived is of equal and innate value and dignity, and that all human life is worthy of protection.

One of the major laws passed to combat environmental degradation and protect human health is the Clean Air Act, signed into law over 40 years ago by President Richard Nixon, with significant amendments signed by President George H. W. Bush in 1990. The law as amended provides, among other things, for the protection of all people, and especially pregnant mothers and unborn children, from mercury pollution generated by power plants.

Mercury and other heavy metal toxins pass across the mother's placenta and enter the bloodstream of her unborn child. A protective shield around the developing child's brain is not fully formed until the first year of life. Mercury easily crosses into the developing child's brain causing brain damage, developmental disabilities, neurological disorders, lowered intelligence, and learning difficulties.

Opponents of restrictions on mercury pollution argue that the cost of cleaning up our air is too high. We welcome an honest debate about how much our children's health is worth. We believe that our families, and particularly the unborn who are most at risk, deserve protection. We continue to support efforts to safeguard pregnant mothers and our unborn and newborn children from the neurological health risks associated with mercury poisoning.

In proposing to roll back the 2012 mercury regulation, the administration wants to exclude co-benefits and ancillary benefits from any cost-benefit analysis. This contradicts [guidelines](#) to federal agencies issued by the George W. Bush administration in 2003, which states: "Your analysis should look beyond the direct benefits and direct costs of your rulemaking and consider any important ancillary benefits and countervailing risks." In the case of the mercury regulation, such co-benefits included the health benefits associated with reducing soot and smog.

When looking at the costs and benefits to society of a regulation, it makes little sense to ignore certain benefits because of how they are labeled. From society's perspective, from the perspective of human health, they're just benefits.

We respectfully ask the Trump Administration to reconsider and reverse the decision to allow additional mercury pollution in our air and water.

Sincerely,

Leith Anderson
President
National Association of Evangelicals

Mitchell C. Hescox
President/C.E.O.
The Evangelical Environmental Network

Tim Echols
Commissioner
Georgia Public Service Commission

Rev. Noah McLaren
Pastor of Worship & Discipleship
Graafschap Christian Reformed Church

Dr. Reginald Smith
Director
Offices of Social Justice & Race Relations, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Dr. Ron Rienstra
Professor of Preaching & Worship Arts
Western Theological Seminary

Rev. Kyle Meyaard-Schaap
National Organizer and Spokesperson
Young Evangelicals for Climate Action
Rev. Dr. Suzanne McDonald
Professor of Theology
Western Theological Seminary

Dr. David Stubbs
Professor of Ethics and Theology
Western Theological Seminary

Dr. Joseph Kuilema

Assistant Professor
Calvin College

Dr. David Koetje
Professor of Biology
Calvin College

Rev. Dominic Palacios
Preaching Pastor
Harderwyk Ministries

Dr. Rebecca Hays
Associate Professor, Biology Department
Eastern University

Dr. David P. Warners
Professor of Biology
Calvin College

Rev. Dr. Thomas Boogaart
Professor of Old Testament
Western Theological Seminary

Dr. Debra K Rienstra
Professor of English
Calvin College

Dr. David L. Dornbos Jr.
Biology Department Professor and Chair
Calvin College

Dr. Wendy L. Mercier
Professor of Exercise Science & Biology
Eastern University

Rev. Dr. S. Philip Covert
Pastor of the Susquehanna Annual Conference, United Methodist Church
United Methodist Church

Dr. Lyle Bierma
Professor of the History of Christianity
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Robert De Haan

Professor of Environmental Studies
Dordt College

Dr. Channon Visscher
Associate Professor of Chemistry & Planetary Sciences
Dordt College

Dr. Cassandra May
Assistant Professor of Biology
Bethel College

Dr. Jeffrey Regier
Professor of Biology and Department Chair
Taylor University

Rev. Dr. Mariano Avila
New Testament Professor
Calvin Theological Seminary

Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Vandermolen
Director of Vocational Formation
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Heath Garris
Assistant Professor
Covenant College

Sarah Withrow King
Co-Director
CreatureKind

Dr. Jeffrey Port
Professor
Bethel University

Gregg Marcello
Assistant Professor of Biology
Greenville University

Dr. Karyn Collie
Assistant Professor of Biology
Malone University

Mr. Nathan Bierma
Educational Technologist
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Kenneth Petersen
Professor of Biological Sciences
Bethel University

Professor Brendon Anthony
Professor
Biola University

Ronald J. Sider
Distinguished Professor of Theology, Holistic Ministry and Public Policy
Palmer Seminary at Eastern University

Dr. Michael Mooring
Professor of Biology
Point Loma Nazarene University

Dr. Rick L Hammer
Associate Professor of Biology
Hardin-Simmons University/First Baptist Church-Abilene, TX

Dr. Jeffrey Greenberg
Professor of Geology Emeritus
Wheaton College

Dr. Todd Thomas Tracy
Professor of Biology and Chemistry
Northwestern College

Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyons
General Superintendent Emerita
The Wesleyan Church

Rev. Tim Dance
Pastor
Living Hope Church

Linnea Scobey
Administrative Coordinator
Creston Christian Reformed Church

Rev. Dr. Paul de Vries
President
New York Divinity School

Dr. James Huff
Associate Professor & Associate Director
Wheaton College, Human Needs & Global Resources Program

Dr. David Rylaarsdam
Professor of the History of Christianity
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Steven Bouma-Prediger
Maas Professor of Reformed Theology
Hope College

Rev. Mark Van Drunen
Pastor
Calvary Christian Reformed Church - Wyoming, MI
Dr. Eric Steinkamp
Professor of Environmental Science
Northwest University

Dr. Laura Yoder
Director, Human Needs and Global Resources Program; Professor of Environmental Studies
Wheaton College

Dr. Noah Toly
Director of the Center for Urban Engagement and Professor of Urban Studies and Politics &
International Relations
Wheaton College

Dr. Dan Ippolito
Professor of Biology
Anderson University

Dr. Katelyn Butler
Assistant Professor of Biology
Anderson University

Michael Bailey
Assistant Professor

Anderson University

Margaret Feinberg
Christian Author and Speaker

Brendon Desrochers
Founder
Christian Political Response

Stephen K. Reeves
Associate Coordinator of Partnerships & Advocacy
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Dr. Aaron Weaver
Communications Director
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

The Rev. Dr. John K Hervey
Pastoral Coach
MIOF

Mr. Brandon Hoover
Director of Sustainability
Messiah College

Dr. John Witvliet
Professor
Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Raymond Johnson
State Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Florida

Rev. Kate Kooyman

Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice

Jonathan Walton
Area Director, Author and Activist
InterVarsity USA

Rev. Jerry Neal Davis

Assistant Pastor
GraceWay Church

Rev. Paul Ryan
Associate Chaplain for Worship
Calvin College

Sam Harrell
Associate Coordinator of Global Missions
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Mr. Dave Blair
Retired Power Technology Teacher

Rev. Dr. Han-luen Kantzer Konline
Assistant Professor of Church History and Theology
Western Theological Seminary

Betsy S. Lozar
Licensed Mental Health Counselor
Charis Counseling

Dr. Jason Courter
Assistant Professor of Biology
Malone University

Dr. Abbie Schrottenboer
Associate Professor of Biology
Trinity Christian College

Mr. Tom Hartzell
Residential Program Coordinator
Goshen College

Rev. Dr. Tom Theriault
Retired Pastor
Solana Beach Presbyterian Church

Dr. Grant Casady
Associate Professor
Whitworth University

Dr. Elizabeth Abbey
Assistant Professor
Whitworth University

Rick McClatchy
Texas Field Coordinator
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Texas

Shirley V. Hoogstra
President
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Rev. Edward Robbins
Interim Pastor
Saint John Lutheran

Dr. Scott Rodin
President
The Steward's Journey

Rev. Randy Buursma
Pastor
First Christian Reformed Church

Dr. Robert J. Keeley
Visiting Professor of Faith Formation and Discipleship
Calvin Theological Seminary

Dr. Lindsay Linsky
Associate Professor and Author
University of North Georgia

Dr. Dorothy Boorse
Professor of Biology
Gordon College

Mr. Brian Webb
Director

Climate Caretakers

Rev. Charles Redfern
Clergyman
American Baptist Churches, USA

Dr. John Hiigel
Professor of Biblical Studies
University of Sioux Falls

Rev. Dr. Charlotte L. Keys
Dr./CEO
Jesus People Against Pollution

Lance Mayes
Associate Pastor
Woodland Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. John David Punch
Lead Pastor
Calvary Church (CRC)
The Rev. Dr. Joel Hunter
Pastor Emeritus
Northland, A Church Distributed

Dr. Randy Brinson
President
Christian Coalition of Alabama

Rev. Ruth Boven
Minister of Congregational Care
LaGrave Ave Christian Reformed Church

Professor Kurt Miller
Social Work Program Director
Lancaster Bible College

Rev. Kris Van Engen
Justice Mobilizing Team Leader
Christian Reformed Church

Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans
Associate Minister
Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church

Mr. Allen Johnson
Coordinator
Christians For The Mountains

Rev. Dr. Brian Keepers
Lead Pastor
Trinity Reformed Church

Rev. Jonathan Gabhart
Worship Arts Pastor
Pillar Church

Rev. Dr. Ken Loyer
Pastor
Spry Church

John Lyon
President
World Hope International