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FIGHTING FOR  
OUR KIDS' HEALTH



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### TODAY: EXPERTS BRIEF SENATE STAFF ON BROAD OPPOSITION TO ANDREW WHEELER'S MERCURY PROPOSAL ONE DAY BEFORE COMMITTEE VOTES ON HIS NOMINATION TO LEAD EPA

WASHINGTON (February 4, 2019) – Today, Senator Tom Carper (D-DE), ranking member on the Senate Environmental Public Works (EPW) Committee joins leading **industry, health, faith, and environmental justice** experts for a Senate briefing co-hosted by **Moms Clean Air Force** and **Earthjustice** on why they oppose EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler's proposal to undermine our country's mercury pollution standards (the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, or "MATS").

This briefing comes just one day before the Committee votes on whether to advance Andrew Wheeler's nomination for EPA Administrator to the Senate for full consideration—and one week after Mr. Wheeler [evaded questions about MATS in his responses to Senators](#) in preparation for this vote. Senator Carper joins a cross-section of experts eager to discuss how undermining mercury pollution standards is a direct threat to babies, children, pregnant women, and vulnerable communities. Experts will also highlight how the EPA's proposal is broadly opposed by the electric utility industry, pediatricians, the faith community, and civil society.

**A Q&A will follow the moderated discussion.**

#### WHAT:

Senate briefing "**Defending our Mercury and Air Toxics Standards.**"

#### WHO:

- [U.S. Senator Tom Carper \(D-DE\)](#), Ranking Member, Environment and Public Works Committee
- [Emily Fisher](#), General Counsel, Edison Electric Institute
- [Reverend Mitch Hescox](#), President/CEO, Evangelical Environmental Network
- [Jacqueline Patterson](#), Director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP
- [Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP](#), American Academy of Pediatrics
- [Molly Rauch](#), MPH, Public Health Policy Director, Moms Clean Air Force

#### WHEN:

Monday, February 4th from **2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at **902 Hart** in the U.S. Senate. Please arrive early to allow for security clearance at the building's main entrance. The address is: 120 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC 20002.

Note: a media "scrum" will be held following the hearing for journalists with additional questions not addressed during the Q&A session. The scrum location is TBD.

## BACKGROUND

In December, EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler issued a [proposal](#) to undermine the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. The proposal takes aim at national standards, in place since 2012, which limit mercury and acid gas pollution from coal fired power plants. Mercury is a dangerous heavy metal that can lead to brain damage. It easily crosses the placenta and is especially harmful to babies and children. The largest source of mercury pollution in the US is coal-fired power plants. Undermining mercury standards could have devastating health consequences for families across the country, especially pregnant women and communities of color living in the shadow of coal plants.

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*Moms Clean Air Force is a community of over one million moms—and dads—working together to combat air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate. We work across the US on national and local policy issues, through a vibrant network of state-based field teams.  
Learn more at [www.momscleanairforce.org](http://www.momscleanairforce.org).*

*Since 1971, Earthjustice has served as the legal backbone for the environmental movement, representing all of our clients free of charge. As the nation's largest nonprofit environmental law organization, we leverage our expertise and commitment to fight for justice and advance the promise of a healthy world for all.  
Learn more at [www.earthjustice.org](http://www.earthjustice.org).*