

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MICHIGAN'S CHILDREN HAVE GAINED DRAMATICALLY FROM TOXIC-LIMITING RULE NOW UNDER THREAT

## Media Statement – December 28, 2018

Statement of Elizabeth Hauptman, Michigan-based member of the national organization, Moms Clean Air Force:

(Brighton, MI – December 28, 2018) "Today, Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released <u>a</u> <u>proposal</u> to undermine and weaken the life-saving Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS), which sets limits on mercury pollution from coal-fired power plants. Mercury, a neurotoxic heavy metal, is particularly harmful to the developing brains of babies and children. This proposal threatens the health of Michigan's children and Moms Clean Air Force strongly opposes this proposal.

"This decision comes as we are learning just how successful MATS has been at decreasing toxic methane pollution in the wolverine state. In fact, <u>new analysis</u> of available data, from 2011 through 2017, the MATS help Michigan reduce its mercury pollution by a staggering 90.5%. In fact, the state is one of the top seven states across country to experience such a significant drop in its total mercury pollution as measured in annual pounds. To put it another way, MATS has reaped enormous health benefits and reduced untold health costs associated with this poisonous metal.

"On behalf of all our members in Michigan and all Michiganders, we will fight this dangerous roll-back. We are counting on our elected officials to throw their full weight behind supporting MATS on behalf of all children whose brains and bodies are already benefiting from these protections."

- See also the national statement <u>here</u> from **Dominique Browning, co-founder and senior director** of Moms Clean Air Force on why our organization opposes the dangerous roll-back.
- See also our national and state-based fact sheets on the rule here.

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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 <u>state-based field teams</u>. Learn more at <u>www.momscleanairforce.org</u>.