



MOMS
clean air
FORCE
FIGHTING FOR
OUR KIDS' HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sasha Tenenbaum, (917) 887-0146, stenenbaum@momscleanairforce.org

TEXAS' CHILDREN HAVE GAINED MOST FROM TOXIC-LIMITING RULE NOW UNDER THREAT

Media Statement – December 28, 2018

Statement of DeeDee Belmares, Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force in Texas:

(San Antonio, TX – December 28, 2018) “Today, Trump’s Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released [a proposal](#) 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 Texas’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 mercury pollution in the Lone Star State. In fact, new analysis of available data, from 2011 through 2017, shows that mercury standards have helped Texas reduce its mercury pollution by a staggering 77.3%. In fact, no other state has seen as great a drop in its total mercury emissions as measured in annual pounds. In Texas alone, the MATS helped avoid 1,200 premature deaths in 2016—nearly 11 percent of all avoided premature deaths estimated for that year—as well as \$9.7 billion in 2016 health benefits.

“On behalf of our more than 57,000 members in Texas and all Texans, 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 [here](#) 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 [state-based field teams](#).
Learn more at www.momscleanairforce.org.*