



## NEWS RELEASE

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### MOMS GROUP FIGHTS TRUMP-WHEELER PLAN TO ALLOW MORE MERCURY POLLUTION

*TV ads highlight threats to children and pregnant women*

Today Moms Clean Air Force launched a TV [ad](#) campaign opposing the Trump administration's attempt to allow more mercury pollution. Acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler recently submitted his proposal to undermine the foundation of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which set limits on mercury and other poisonous and cancer-causing substances from power plants, to the White House for review.

The ads focus on the well-known harm that toxic mercury causes to brain development.

"Mercury pollution damages children's brains and there's no excuse for this administration allowing more toxic chemicals in our air and water," said Dominique Browning, co-founder and Senior Director of Moms Clean Air Force. "These rules are already in place and they're working to protect kids. Mr. Wheeler and the Trump administration are trying to weaken health protections for the benefit of a few coal CEOs and -- as mothers and fathers -- we just can't accept that."

Power plants have been the leading source of many toxic pollutants, including mercury and arsenic, before the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards went into effect.

The standards help ensure 90 percent of the mercury in coal burned in power plants is not released into our air. [EPA estimates](#) that the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards save up to 11,000 lives each year, as well as prevent thousands of heart attacks, asthma attacks, and hospital visits. The economic benefits of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards are as high as \$90 billion each year, outweighing the costs by up to a margin of 9-to-1.

A rare coalition of health and business groups have opposed changing the mercury standards, [including](#) the Edison Electric Institute, American Public Power Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, labor leaders, and Members of Congress [from both parties](#). Only a few lagging companies stand to benefit from the changes. Andrew Wheeler was a long-time lobbyist for coal CEO Bob Murray before he was named to a senior EPA position.

The ad will run in Arizona, Minnesota, Ohio, and Washington, DC, over the next two weeks.

The ad can be seen [here](#).

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*[Moms Clean Air Force](#) is a community of more than 1,000,000 moms—and dads—working together to combat air pollution, including the urgent crisis of our changing climate, for the sake of our children's health.*