

The undersigned 470 hunting and fishing organizations representing more than one million sportsmen nationwide send the following letter to U.S. EPA Administrator Leavitt.

June 22, 2004

Michael Leavitt, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, Room 3000
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

We write to you as fellow sportsmen and outfitters to convey our concern about the effects of mercury contamination on fish and wildlife. We urge you to ensure that this problem is addressed in a serious and timely manner.

More than 10 million acres of lakes and 400,000 miles of streams in America are contaminated by mercury. Forty-three states and one territory currently warn the public about unsafe mercury levels and advise people against eating locally-caught fish. People who eat fish contaminated by mercury can suffer from a myriad health problems. Children, whose brains are still developing, are at particularly high risk of neurological problems such as delays in walking, talking and developing fine motor skills. Evidence continues to mount that mercury causes reproductive problems in ducks and fish-eating birds such as loons, and also threatens reproduction in walleye and other fish species.

In addition to health and wildlife effects, mercury in fish has potential serious economic implications for the sportfishing industry. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation," the recreational fishing industry generates more than \$100 billion in revenue per year. More than 44 million Americans fish – more than play golf and tennis combined. This includes nearly 10 million children. Few experiences in life are better than witnessing the excitement of a child who reels in his or her first fish, then proudly takes it home for dinner. How do we explain to them that they cannot safely eat what they catch?

Anglers in some states have had to worry about mercury fish advisories for three decades – the difference today is that we now have the technology to feasibly and affordably solve this problem. The current Clean Air Act includes a provision to effectively address mercury pollution. Unfortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce mercury emissions from power plants falls far short of what the law requires. We urge you to consider the impact mercury has on our wildlife, economy, and children, and strengthen this proposal so it meets the intent and obligations of the Clean Air Act.

Please help us rid our nation's beautiful rivers, streams, and lakes of mercury so we can continue to enjoy fishing with our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,

The undersigned 470 organizations:

Alabama

Alabama Waterfowl Association, Inc.

Arkansas

Arkansas Wildlife Federation
Clarendon Flyway Council
Crooked Creek Coalition

Arizona

Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited
Arizona Wildlife Federation

California

California Trout

Colorado

Colorado Wildlife Federation

Connecticut

Rhode Island Mobile Sportfishermen, Inc.

Florida

Airboat, Halftrack & Conservation Club
of Palm Beach
American Airlines Bass Association
Bass Busters
Bass N' Fools
Big Bend Saltwater Classic
Big Lake Bassmasters
Big Reel Bass Masters of Margate, Inc.
Boca Gladesmaster
Broward County Airboat, Halftrack
Conservation Club
Christian Bass Anglers Association
Dewing's Fly and Gun Shop
Everglades Bass Anglers
Everglades Bass Masters of South Florida
Everglades Bassmasters
Florida Airboat Association, Inc.
Florida BASS Federation
Florida Bass Foundation
Florida Defenders of the Environment
Florida Guide Association
Florida Wildlife Federation
Gladesmasters Bass Club
Homestead Ambassadors
Homestead Hawg Hunters
Islemorada Fishing Club
Izaak Walton League of Florida
Jerry's Bait and Tackle
Lake Worth/Boynton Beach Bass Masters
Naples Fishing Club
Night Owls
Old Glory Bass Anglers
Organization for Artificial Reefs
Panhandle Citizens Coalition
Pioneer Bassers
Pompano Beach Gladesmasters
Quality Outboard Services

Renegade Bass Club
Safari Club International North Florida
Safari Club International South Florida
Safari Club International, Naples / Ft. Myers
Save the St. Johns River, Inc.
Snook Foundation
South Dade Anglers
South Florida Anglers For Everglades
Restoration
South Florida Bass Anglers
South Florida Bass Kings
South Florida Bass Pro's
South Florida Bassmasters
South Florida Bassrattlers
Southern Angler - Light Tackle Outfitter
St. Andrews Bay Resource Management
Association
Sunrise Bass Club
Tampa Bay Wildlife Federation
The Bass Holes
The Wilderness Way
Thursday Night Tournaments
Traditional Bowhunters of Florida
Trail Glades Bassmasters
Treasure Coast Bassmasters
Upper Keys Citizen Association, Inc.
Weekend Bass Anglers
Weekend Bassers
West Palm Beach Fishing Club

Hawaii

Conservation Council For Hawaii

Iowa

Iowa Wildlife Federation
Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Johnson County Chapter, Izaak Walton
League
Wagner Conservation Coalition

Illinois

Hook-N-Hackle Fly Tyers
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Northern Illinois Anglers Association
Reeds Canoe Trips, Inc.

Indiana

Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation
& Development Area, Inc.
Country Conservation Club
Indiana Wildlife Federation
Lake County Fish & Game Protection
Association, Inc.
Little River Wetlands Project
Monroe Township Conservation Club
Pretty Lake Conservation Club
The Bremen Conservation Club
United Are We Conservation Club

Kansas

Kansas BASS Chapter Federation

Kentucky

3rd District League of Kentucky Sportsmen
Campbell County Game & Fish Club
Campsprings Coyote Club
Electricians Rod and Gun Club
League of Kentucky Sportsmen
Kentucky Houndsmen
Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers
The Bob White Club

Louisiana

Avoyelles Wildlife Federation
East Ascension's Sportsman's League
Hunters for Hardwoods
Louisiana Wildlife Federation
Rapides Wildlife Association

Maine

Springvale Fish & Game Club
Izaak Walton League of Maine

Michigan

Emmet County Sportsmen's Club
Flint River Valley Steelheaders Chapter of
the Michigan Steelhead and Salmon
Fishing Association
Friends of Pontiac Lake Recreation Area
Grass Lake Sportsman Club
Hubbard Lake Sportsman and
Improvement Association
Little Lake Watershed Conservancy Inc.
Michigan Conservation Foundation
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Wild Turkey Hunters Association
Oakland County Sportsmen's Club

Minnesota

Ann Lake Sportsmen's Club
Belle Plaine Sportsmen's Club
Big Boss Woods Gobblers
Bradford Sportsmen's Club
Byron Sportsman & Conservation Club
Deer River Sportsman's Club
Delano Sportsmen's Club
Fertile Community Conservation Club
Fish Lake Sportsmen's Club
Flensburg Sportsmen's Club
Fox Lake Sportsmen's Club
Gopher State Sportsmen's Club
Hasty-Silver Creek Sportsmen's Club
Holloway Rod & Gun Club
Howard Lake Sportsmen's Club
Jackson County Conservation Club
Kenyon Sportsmen's Club, Inc.

Minnesota continued

Key Cites Conservation Club
Lake Benton Sportsmen's Club
Lake City Sportsmen's Club
Lewiston Sportsmen's Club
Little Mantrap Sportsmen's Club
Martin County Conservation Club
Minnesota Conservation Federation
Minnesota Deer Hunters Association
Minnesota Fish and Wildlife Employees Association
Minnesota State Coon Hunters Association
Montgomery Sportsmen's Club
New Market Sportsmen's Club
New Prague Sportsmen's Club
Norman County Rod and Gun Club
Osseo Conservation Club
Pine Island White Pines Sportsman's Club
Prior Lake Sportsmen's Club
Red Wing Wildlife League
Scott County Pheasants Forever
Snake River Valley Conservation Club
Southwest Metro National Wild Turkey Federation
St. Joseph Rod & Gun Club
Tri Lakes Sportsmen's Club
United Northern Sportsmen's Club
Wheatland Twin Lakes Sportsmen's Club
Willmar Sportsmen's Club
Wright County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Mississippi

Mississippi Wildlife Federation

North Carolina

North Carolina Wildlife Federation

New Hampshire

Coldwater Fisheries Coalition
New Hampshire Bear Hunters Association
New Hampshire Council of Trout Unlimited
New Hampshire Wildlife Federation

New Jersey

Jersey Coast Anglers Association

Nevada

Nevada Wildlife Federation
Truckee River Fly Fishers
Truckee River Yacht Club

New York

Oak Orchard Canoe and Kayak

Ohio

167 St. Mary's Pheasants Forever
Akron Turner Club
Allen County Conservation Club

Ohio continued

Allen County Sportsmen & Farmers Association
Allen/Putnam County Pheasants Forever
Ashtabula County Wildlife Conservation League
Associated Bird Dog Clubs of Ohio
Auglaize Fish & Game Protective Association
Beallsville Sportsman Club
Belmont Hunting & Fishing
Berlin TWP Farmers and Hunters
Bethesda Farmer & Sportsman Club
Big Walnut Conservation Club
Black River Conservation Association, Inc.
Bluffton Community Sportsmen's Club
Brands Lake Fishing Club
Bronson Norwalk Conservation League
Brookfield Conservation Club
Brookfield Tri-District Conservation Club
Brownlee Woods Rod & Gun Club
Butler County Sportsmen
Carey Conservation Sportsmen Association
Central Ohio Safari Club International
Champaign County Sportsmen Club
Chippewa Conservation Club
Clark County Coon Hunters Association
Clermont Sportsmen Club, Inc.
Clintonville Conservation Club
Columbian County Federation of Conservation Clubs
Columbus Muzzleloading Gun Club
Conneaut Fish & Game Club
Continental Conservation Club
Coshocton County Sportsmen
Crooked Creek Bowhunters
Crooked Creek Conservation Club
Defiance County Fish & Game Association
Defiance County Pheasants Forever
Delaware County Pheasants Forever
Delaware Fish & Game Club
Eastern Ohio Conservation
Euclid Field Trial Association
Fairport Harbor Rod & Reel Club
Fitchville Conservation League
Fly Fishermen's Campfire
Forest City Rod & Gun Club
Fostoria United Sportsmen, Inc.
Gahanna Bass Anglers
Gallia County Conservation Association
Geauga Bowmen, Inc.
German Shorthair Pointer Club of Ohio
GKL Wildlife Association
Glandorf Rod & Gun Club
Goodyear Hunting & Fishing Club
Greene County Fish & Game Association
Hardin County Pheasants Forever
Hemloch Sportsman Association
Henry County Pheasants Forever
Hilltop Sportsman's Club

Hocking Valley Sportsman Association
Huron Township Conservation Club
Jefferson County Sportsman Association
Johnstown Community Sportsmen's Club
Kalida Fish & Game Club
Kipton Sportsmen Club
Lake Improvement Association
Lake Loramie Improvement Association
Lakeview Coon & Fox Hunters Association
Land of Legend Rifle & Pistol Club
Lansing Sportsmen's Club
League of Ohio Sportsmen
Leipsic Fishing & Hunting Association
Logan County Pheasants Forever
Lorain County Casters
Lowellville Rod & Gun Club
Lunker Hunters Bass Club
Martin L. Davey Izaak Walton League Chapter
Maumee Valley Sportsmens Club
McFarland's Fishing Classes
Medina Farmers Sportsman League
Medina Pheasants Forever
Meigs County Fish and Game Association
Mercer County Sportsman Association
Merickel-Farley Trout Club
Miami Valley Bassmasters
Mingo Sportsman Club
Morrow County Conservation Club
Mosquito Bowmen Conservation Club
Mt. Healthy Izaak Walton League Chapter
Muskingum Valley Fisherman
New Bremen Rod and Gun Club
New Carlisle Sportsman Club
New Middletown Farmers & Sportsmen Club
New Sportsmen's Club
Newport Sportsmen Club
North Ashland County Conservation League
North Coast Charter Boat Association
North Coast Fly Fishers
North Coast Pheasants Forever
North Coast Sportfishing Council
North Coast Waterfowlers
North Toledo Sportsmen's Club
Northeast Ohio Walleye Association
Northeast Pheasants Forever
Northwestern Ohio Fur Traders
NWTF Raccoon Creek Chapter
Oak Harbor Conservation Club, Inc.
Oakland Park Conservation Club
Ohio Bass Chapter Federation
Ohio Central Basin Steelheaders
Ohio Federation of Conservation Clubs
Ohio Fur Takers of America
Ohio Huskie Muskie, Inc.
Ohio Mining & Reclamation Association
Ohio Muzzle Loading Association
Ohio Progressive Sportsman Club, Inc.
Ohio Safari Club International
Ohio Smallmouth Alliance

Ohio continued

Ohio Sportsmen Farmers League
ORCO Sportsmen's Association, Inc.
Orwell Gun Club
OSP & GBA Hollow Log Gamebirds
Ottawa County Conservation League
Paulding County Pheasants Forever
Pickaway County Sportsmen
Pine Valley Sportsmen, Inc.
Polish American Citizens Club
Progressive Fishing Association
Purple Heart Hunting & Fishing Club
Richland County Fish & Game
Rochester Rod & Gun Club
Senaca County Pheasants Forever
Shelby County Fish & Game
Shenandoah Valley Ghost Gobblers
Snakehunters Conservation Club
Solon Sportsman Association
South Shore Sportsman Club
South Western Ohio Conservation Club
Southeast Conservation Club
Southside Sportsman's Club
Southwestern Ohio Bass Busters
Stryker Sportsmen Club
Sugar Creek Valley Farm & Game Club
Summit Beagle Club, Inc.
Toronto Rod & Gun Club
Tri-County Sportsman League
Tri-State Coon Hunters Club
Troy Fish & Game Association
Trumbull County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Trumbull County Rod & Gun Club
TRW Rod & Gun Club
Turkeyfoot Sportsman Club
Twin Valley Rod & Gun Club
Union County Pheasants Forever
United Conservation Outdoor Association
United Polish Club
Vermilion Fish & Game
Wadsworth Hunt Club
Warren County Conservation Association, Inc.
Washington County Fish & Game
Waverley Hunt Club, Inc.
Wayne Coon Hunters Association
Wells Township Sportsman's Club
West Cleveland Walleye Association
Western Reserve Fish & Game Club
Western Reserve Pheasants Forever
Westlake Sportsmen Association
Whartons Sportsman Club
Wildlife Officers FOP Lodge 143
Willard Conservation League
Williams County Conservation
Wolf Creek Rod and Gun Club
Woods & Waters Club of Northern Ohio
Wyandot County Rod & Gun Club
Zeppelin Rifle Club

Pennsylvania

Canewago Rod and Gun Club
Factoryville Sportsmen's Clubs
Mill City Sportsmen
Montgomery Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Northhampton County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Inc.
Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, Somerset County
Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation
Susquehanna Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Tunkhannock Beagle Club
Wyoming Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

Rhode Island

Ocean State Fishermen's Association
Rhode Island Bass Chapter Federation
Rhode Island Commercial Rod and Reel Anglers
Rhode Island Salt Water Angler's Association
Rhode Island Shellfishermen's Association

South Carolina

South Carolina Council of Trout Unlimited

South Dakota

South Dakota Bass Federation
South Dakota Wildlife Federation

Texas

Greg Gates Guide Service
Metropolitan League of Bass Clubs of San Antonio
SMART - Sensible Management of Aquatic Resources Team
Sportsmen Conservationists of Texas
Texas Association of Bass Clubs
Texas Black Bass Unlimited
Trackin' Trophies

Vermont

Strictly Trout Flyfishing Guide Service
Vermont Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
Vermont Trout Unlimited
Connecticut River Watershed Council
River Steward for VT/NH

Washington

Washington Wildlife Federation

Wisconsin

Aldo Leopold Chapter, Trout Unlimited
Almond Rod and Gun Club
Ashland and Bayfield County Sportsmen

Wisconsin continued

Association of Conservation Clubs of Trempealeau County
Badger Fishermen's League
Bangor Rod and Gun Club
Brown County Conservation Alliance
Brule River Sportsmen's Club
Burlington Conservation Club
Carter Creek Sportsmen's Club
Cataract Sportsman Club
Central Wisconsin Shoot to Retrieve
Central Wisconsin Sportsmen's Club
Challenge the Outdoors, Inc.
Coon Valley Conservation Club, Inc.
Crystal Lake Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
De Pere Sportsman's Club
Dodge County Sporting Conservation Alliance
Dousman Gun Club
Dunn County Fish and Game Association
Eau Claire Rod and Gun Club
Farmers and Sportsmen's Club
Fin N Feather Sportsman's Club
Forest County Association of Lakes, Inc.
Forest County Walleye Association
Fort Atkinson Wisconservation Club
Frank Hornber Chapter Trout Unlimited
Friends of the Brule River and Forest Globe Conservation Club
Green Bay Duck Hunters Association
Green Bay Great Lakes Sport Fishermen
Hayward Rod and Gun Club
Jefferson Sportsmen's Club
Koenig's Conservation Club
Lakeview Rod and Gun Club
Lincoln County Sports Club
Living Adventure, Inc.
Manitowoc County Coon Hunters
Millston-Knapp Sportsmen's Club
Milwaukee Casting Club
Milwaukee Police Officers Conservation and Sportsman Club
MM Sportfisherman, Inc
Monches Fish and Game Club
Mosinee Sportsmen's Alliance
Northeast Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fisherman
Oakland Conservation Club
Oconto County Sportsmen's Alliance
Outagamie Conservation Club
Papus Nicolet Gun Club
Pewaukee Lake Sportsmen Club
Racine County Conservation League
Racine County Line Rifle Club, Inc.
Richfield Sportsmen's Club
River Alliance of Wisconsin
Rock River Koshkonong
Sauk Trail Conservation Club
Shadows on the Wolf, Inc.

Wisconsin continued

Sheboygan County Conservation Association
Slinger Sportsman Club
Smerke's Sportsmen's Club
South Clark County Sportsman's Club
South Milwaukee 1400 Fishing and Hunting Club
Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Sparta Rod and Gun Club
Star Prairie Fish and Game Association
Sturgeon for Tomorrow Chapter
Sugar River Valley Chapter of Pheasants Forever
Suscha-Fale Sportsmen's Club
Trempealeau Sportsman's Club
Triangle Sportsmen's Club
Tri-County Sportswomen's Club
Trout Unlimited, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter
Watertown Conservation Club
Waukesha County Conservation Alliance
Wilderness Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Wildlife Society Student Chapter
Wings Over Wisconsin
Winnebago Conservation Club
Wisconsin Association of Field Trial Clubs
Wisconsin Association of Sporting Dog Clubs
Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association
Wisconsin Bird and Game Breeders Association
Wisconsin Coon Hunter Association
Wisconsin Council of Sportfishing Organizations
Wisconsin Deer Hunters Association
Wisconsin Federation of Great Lake Sport Fishing Clubs
Wisconsin Hunters Education Instructor Association
Wisconsin Muzzle Loading Association
Wisconsin Pheasants Forever
Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance
Wisconsin Stewardship Network
Wisconsin Taxidermist Association
Wisconsin Trappers Association
Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited

West Virginia

West Virginia Wildlife Federation

Wyoming

Wyoming Wildlife Federation