

## **Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing**

### **“An Oversight Hearing on the Administration’s Mercury Pollution Rule”**

#### **Witness Biographies**

##### **KATHLEEN MCGINTY**

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

A native of Philadelphia, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty earned a chemistry degree from Saint Joseph’s University and a law degree from Columbia University School of Law. Between 1989 and 2001, Secretary McGinty served in various capacities in national and international public policy leadership in the U.S. Senate and the White House. She chaired the White House Council on Environmental Quality and acted as Deputy Assistant to President Bill Clinton. She also created and headed the first-ever White House Office on Environmental Policy.

In 1999, Secretary McGinty completed a year stay in India as a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Tata Energy Research Institute. Upon her return in 2000, she advised both Vice President Al Gore and the Democratic National Committee. Most recently, Secretary McGinty served as vice president for asset management at Natsource LLC and also as director of Proton Energy Systems Inc. Secretary McGinty currently serves on the Board of Trustees of St. Joseph’s University. In 2003, Secretary McGinty became the first woman to head the state Department of Environmental Protection, a 3,000-employee agency with a mission to protect Pennsylvania’s air, land and water from pollution and provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment.

##### **PRAVEEN AMAR**

Northeast States Center for Coordinated Air Use Management

Dr. Praveen Amar is the Director of Science and Policy at NESCAUM (Northeast States Center for Coordinated Air Use Management). NESCAUM is an interagency association of eight northeastern states (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire) that provides high-level scientific and policy-relevant input to its member states on regional air pollution issues. While at NESCAUM, he served as a member of the EPA’s New Source Review Advisory Subcommittee (1993-1996), which provided guidance to the EPA’s effort to reform the NSR permitting program. He was a member of the Science Advisory Committee (1993-2001) for the EPA-funded, MIT-Caltech Center on Airborne Organics.

From August 2001 to March 2003, Dr. Amar served as a member, representing states interests, of the EPA’s Mercury MACT (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) stakeholders workgroup of the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC). From June-December 2003, he served as a member of the U.S. EPA’s Clean Air Scientific

Advisory Committee (CASAC)'s Subcommittee on National Ambient Air Monitoring Strategy. He received his Ph.D. in engineering from UCLA in 1977 and is a licensed Mechanical Engineer in the State of California.

### **JANE BROWNING**

Learning Disabilities Association of America

Jane Browning is Executive Director of the Learning Disabilities Association of America, a national membership association founded by parent volunteers in 1963, headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. LDA has about 20,000 members with affiliates in 40 states. Ms. Browning initiated the LDA Healthy Children Project in August of 2002, with funding support from the John Merck Fund. The project promotes grassroots prevention activities, focusing on links between environmental neurotoxicants and learning and other developmental disabilities. The Healthy Children Project is active through LDA affiliates in 14 states.

As Executive Director of President Clinton's Committee on Mental Retardation, Ms. Browning organized an International Conference on Poverty and Disability at the City University of New York in 2000. Ms. Browning also organized the Arc 1993 National Summit on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Prevention, held in Baltimore.

Ms. Browning has advocated for the rights and welfare of individuals with disabilities for over 30 years. She is a Nebraska native who studied Theater at Northwestern University and has a degree in English Literature from the University of Texas at Dallas.

### **LEONARDO TRASANDE**

Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Dr. Leonardo Trasande is the Assistant Director for The Mount Sinai Center for Children's Health and the Environment (CCHE). CCHE is the first academic research and policy center in the United States to examine the links between exposure to toxic pollutants and childhood illness. Dr. Trasande earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He completed a pediatrics residency at Boston Children's Hospital.

In his current work at CCHE, Dr. Trasande applies health services research methods and environmental science to develop policy guidance at national and international levels. Most recently, he performed an analysis of the public health and economic consequences of methylmercury toxicity, and is performing follow-up work to guide mercury pollution policy in the U.S. He is working on several children's health policy initiatives, including full funding and implementation of the federally-sponsored National Children's Study, which will provide critical information about the role of the environment in childhood chronic diseases, and form the foundation of U.S. child health policy for decades to

come. Dr. Trasande is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and he continues to practice clinically both in New York and in Boston.

**SUSAN WEST MARMAGAS**  
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Susan West Marmagas is the Director of Environment and Health Programs for Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) in Washington, DC, where she leads national campaigns on toxics, especially mercury; climate change and energy solutions; and emerging links between chronic diseases and the environment. She became the Program Director in April 2001 after serving as PSR's Director of Environmental Health Education and Outreach since April 2000. Prior to joining PSR, she was Senior Director for Health and Environment Programs with the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and served as the Associate Director of the Children's Environmental Health Network.

Ms. Marmagas earned her Master of Public Health, with a concentration in Community Health Education, from the University of California at Berkeley and her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. She has authored articles and publications on children's health and mercury, nationwide environmental health disease tracking, educating health providers about pesticides, and training pediatric faculty on how to teach environmental health. Ms. Marmagas serves on the EPA's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee and co-chairs its Regulatory Work Group.

**GEORGE MEYER**  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Mr. Meyer is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, the state's largest conservation organization comprised of 100 hunting, fishing and trapping groups. He formerly served with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for 32 years as a staff attorney for the Enforcement Division Administrator and as the Secretary for eight years. During his tenure as Secretary, Mr. Meyer served in a number of national positions including the President of the Environmental Council of the States and the Vice-President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

After retiring from state service, Mr. Meyer was a Visiting Professor in Environmental Studies at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He has a B.A. in Economics from St. Norbert College in West DePere, Wisconsin and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School.