



The Nature Conservancy in Maine
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June 20, 2007

The Honorable Tom Allen
U.S. House of Representatives
1127 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Allen:

Thank you for sponsoring H.R. 1534, the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2007 and for co-sponsoring H.R. 1533, the Comprehensive National Mercury Monitoring Program Establishment Act. These bills would discourage the global mercury supply chain by banning its export from the United States and create a system to monitor mercury in soil, water, and living organisms and ensure that mercury regulation addresses hotspots.

Over the last half century, The Nature Conservancy has been known primarily for buying land - wildlife habitat - throughout Maine and throughout the United States. We now work with governments and partners in more than 30 countries around the globe as well. Our goal over these 50-plus years has been to make sure that the whole suite of plant and animal diversity that now populates our world - that we now enjoy and benefit from - will survive and similarly enrich the lives of future generations. Reducing the threat of mercury contamination stands as a high priority for The Nature Conservancy, especially in our Eastern United States region where it presents significant threats to a broad range of wildlife species.

The Conservancy encourages the United States to join several international actors, including the European Union, to ban on mercury exports and we urge federal agencies to stockpile mercury for safe disposition. We are also actively engaged in the research of the impact of mercury on biodiversity. These bills, if successfully implemented, will have a significant impact on the effort to reduce the effects of mercury throughout the world. We are grateful to attention to this very important issue.

The Conservancy looks forward to supporting your efforts to further these bills in the 110th Congress.

Sincerely,

Michael Tetreault
Executive Director