May 31, 2011

Lisa Perez Jackson
Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Ariel Rios Federal Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 3000
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Stop Mercury and Air Toxics Now (EPA Docket # EPA-HQ-OAR-2009-0234)

Dear Administrator Lisa Jackson:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of the Catholic health ministry representing the largest group of not-for-profit health care providers in the nation, I want to congratulate you on proposing Clean Air Act standards to protect our nation's communities from the threats of toxic air pollution from power plants.

There is growing evidence that power plants emit some of the most hazardous air pollutants known to us. These pollutants are the source of a number of extreme health problems—particularly in children and the unborn, the poor and the elderly. These health problems include brain damage, learning disabilities, birth defects, heart disease, cancer, bronchitis, asthma and other crippling and life-threatening conditions.

Our position on controlling pollution from power plants is rooted in the Catholic Church's teachings on the dignity of the human person and the sanctity of human life—especially in regards to the poor and vulnerable who disproportionately bear the brunt of environmental degradation As a ministry of the church, we are committed to protect and defend the life, health and dignity of every human person. Our position is also grounded in the Judeo-Christian call to "cultivate and care for" God's good gift of Creation (Gn 2:15).

We encourage the EPA to adopt strong air quality policies in order to protect the health and welfare of both people and the planet, and we oppose industry and Congressional pressure to weaken the proposed rules.

For additional information on CHA's position, please contact Julie Trocchio at Jtrocchio@chausa.org or 202 721 6320.

Sincerely,

Sr. Carol Keehan

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC
President and Chief Executive Officer