



AMERICAN BUSINESSES SUPPORT EPA'S PLAN TO CUT TOXIC MERCURY POLLUTION

Washington, DC – February 16, 2012 -- The American Businesses for Clean Energy (ABCE) today released the following statement regarding the publication of the EPA's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants in the Federal Register, which initiates a 60 day timeline for litigation and Congressional review:

On behalf of over 5,000 businesses from a broad cross-section of American industry, we wish to express our support for the final Mercury and Air Toxics Rule published in the Federal Register today and slated to go into effect April 16, 2012. As business leaders, we believe the finalization of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards for power plants are a meaningful step towards economic recovery and growth, and failure to implement these standards would create significant uncertainty for the business community. Such uncertainty would delay much needed investment and technological innovation associated with retooling coal-fired power plants. These investments spur job creation through pollution control installation, construction projects and related supply chain management as the electric sector transitions toward a cleaner generating fleet.

EPA estimates that implementing this rule will provide employment for tens of thousands of Americans by supporting 46,000 short-term construction jobs and 8,000 long-term utility jobs. Other estimates predict higher jobs benefits. For example, the Economic Policy Institute's updated February 2012 analysis estimates the rule will generate roughly 117,000 jobs by 2015. In addition, the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards will yield up to \$90 billion in annual public health benefits by improving air quality, reducing pollution-related health care expenses for businesses and increasing worker productivity through reductions in missed work days.

On behalf of ABCE members, ranging in size from Fortune 500 companies to small businesses, we oppose efforts to delay or block the timely implementation of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards. The final standards are a catalyst for economic growth and job creation and will also significantly reduce the burden of air pollution on businesses. Our experience has shown that environmental policies, when properly designed, can strengthen our economy while protecting public health and the environment.

About American Businesses for Clean Energy

The American Businesses for Clean Energy (ABCE) aim to promote effective government policies that will drive the transition to a clean energy economy while creating new jobs and economic growth. With over 5,200 supporters nationwide, ABCE is an initiative to demonstrate large and small business support for EPA's clean air rules and Congressional enactment of clean energy and climate legislation. www.americanbusinessesforcleanenergy.org