

have to fight the terrorists wherever they are, the one who said if you are not with us, you are against us; you are either a terrorist, and if you are a terrorist, we are opposed to you. If you harbor terrorists, if you support terrorists, if you fund terrorists, you are a terrorist. Now there is some habitat in Spain that might cause terrorists to settle in there, and that might potentially be a risk for more terror to come out of there. Maybe they will leave the Spanish people alone, but that does not mean the rest of the people are safe.

So we are confronted with appeasement over there. We need to stand together here. We need to stand together with our allies who have come together behind the United States. No other nation out there seems to be willing to crack and go off in that direction.

We have a large job ahead of us, to stand with our military, those who have given their lives and limbs, those who have given years out of their lives to protect us and protect our freedom.

I will continue to defend our President in this country, and let us be ready for any attacks. If we have to do it, let us go to the polls and defend our war on terror.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LAMPSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THREAT FROM MERCURY EMISSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am here today with the gentleman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and later others of my colleagues to tell a story. It is not the most pleasant story, but it is an important story. It is a story of the threat from mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants around the country to the health of the American people, and it is a story of

how the Clean Air Act requires that mercury be regulated as a hazardous pollutant, but this administration has chosen not to do that. In fact, this administration has submitted a proposed mercury rule which in major respects was written by the industries it is supposed to regulate. This story is an indication of what needs to be done to change the direction of the environmental policy of this administration.

Let me begin by talking about the Clean Water Act and the threat that mercury emissions pose to people in this country.

Three decades ago, the Clean Water Act promised that America would have water bodies that were fishable, that were swimmable and drinkable. Clean water, that was the goal.

But today, all across this country there are warnings that particularly women and children should not eat the fish from our lakes and streams and rivers because those fish are contaminated with mercury. Mercury pollution has contaminated 12 million acres of lakes, estuaries, wetlands, 30 percent of the national total. Nearly every State has issued warnings about eating mercury-contaminated fish. Seventeen States have mercury warnings for every single inland body of water, and 11 States have issued warnings for mercury in their coastal areas.

This is an extremely serious health issue for people in this country. In February 2004, a new EPA analysis found that about 630,000 children are born in the United States each year with blood mercury levels higher than 5.8 parts per billion, the level at which the risk of poor brain development is doubled. The study found one in every six women of child-bearing age has enough mercury in her bloodstream to threaten the health of her child.

Where does this mercury come from? Well, it comes mostly from the burning of coal in electric generating plants; and the mercury goes up into the air, it travels great distances through the air, and then comes down and it gets into the food chain in our bodies of water. According to the National Research Council, effects from prenatal exposure include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, deafness, and blindness. Adult exposure can produce sensory and motor impairments such as slurred speech, blurred vision, tremors, and memory loss.

Members may remember the expression "mad as a hatter." Well, that expression grew out of 19th century England because hatters then were literally driven mad because there was a compound containing mercury that they used in processing the felt that went into their hats. Mercury can be extraordinarily dangerous in those kinds of concentrated forms. Mercury also threatens our loons, our ducks, our mammals. Recent evidence shows that exposure threatens reproductive success, liver damage, kidney damage, and neuro-behavioral effects.

Like 41 million Americans, I love to go fishing, but it has changed because

fresh water fish in so many instances cannot be eaten without risk of mercury contamination, and that is why our States have so many warnings about the risks of mercury.

In Maine, my home State, we have about 26,000 people employed in the fishing industry, and we have thousands and thousands of recreational fishermen. Nationwide, recreational fishing generated more than \$35.6 billion in expenditures in the year 2001 and \$116 billion of total economic output. It supported more than 1 million jobs.

Now, in December the Bush administration was faced with a court requirement that it submit a proposed rule to regulate mercury emissions from power plants. Unfortunately, the rule that they proposed reinterprets the Clean Air Act, I believe, illegally in order to help polluters. It dramatically delays by how soon and by how much plants will have to clean up their act. Under the Clinton administration, EPA concluded that mercury is a hazardous air pollutant that had to be regulated under the strict section 112 entitled "Hazardous air pollutants."

Section 112 requires that EPA issue a maximum achievable control standard which would require every plant, here is one of the key differences, it would require every plant to reduce mercury emissions by 2007 to the maximum achievable level. Instead, the Bush administration proposes to regulate mercury, a hazardous air pollutant under section 111, "Standards of performance for new stationery permits," in order to allow the use of tradeable permits.

Senator George Mitchell of Maine and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), and all of the Members of this body who worked together in 1990 to write the Clean Air Act amendments, I know intended for EPA to regulate hazardous air pollutants under the section of the law entitled "Hazardous air pollutants." It is exactly that simple. But the Bush administration proposal delays reductions. EPA agreed in court to regulate mercury emissions by December 15, 2007. This proposal delays any regulation until 2010 and full implementation to 2030. The cap-and-trade system they propose requires only a 29 percent reduction in 2010 and a 69 percent reduction by 2018.

So what we have is a weakening of the Clean Air Act in a way that I believe is absolutely illegal. But the EPA has not come to this with clean hands. Their own modeling shows that the 69 percent cut will not be achieved until 2030 because the trading system encourages many power plant owners to delay making improvements.

Here is a quote from Jeffrey Holmstead, the assistance environmental protection administrator in charge of air. This is what he says today: "What our models now show is we won't get there as soon as we expected we would." That is what he told the New York Times on Sunday, but the truth is the EPA knew very well