

2010 is strong as well. SO₂ is a harmful particulate that is a major component of acid rain which does serious damage to plants and trees. States in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast see the worst of acid rain's effects on our forests and croplands. EPA's acid rain program has yielded tremendous success and the SO₂ reductions that the bill calls for would help us achieve greater SO₂ reductions.

These important limits on two harmful air pollutants are very important measures to protect the public health and the environment.

Nitrogen Oxide, NO_x, is a dangerous air pollutant that contributes to haze, water nitrification, and ground level ozone during the summer months which is extremely dangerous to breathe particularly for people who suffer from respiratory diseases like asthma and emphysema. Maryland, and Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States struggle to achieve attainment of healthy air standards because of NO_x emissions. The Federal Government must do what it can to help these States achieve healthy air through reductions in NO_x.

I am committed to working with Senators CARPER and ALEXANDER to make the bill achieve the goal of NO_x reductions to protect the public health of citizens of all States including Maryland.

Maryland's experience as a downwind State motivated the Maryland legislature and our Governor to take firm and decisive action to reduce mercury, SO₂ and NO_x emissions in the State by implementing the toughest powerplant emissions law on the east coast. The Healthy Air Act, enacted in July 2007, established an ambitious timetable of 3 years for Maryland's powerplants to meet a new set of robust clean air standards.

Using 2002 as its emissions baseline, Maryland's Healthy Air Act has the State well on its way to reducing NO_x emissions in Maryland by 75 percent by 2012, after already achieving an interim goal of 70 percent reduction target for NO_x in 2009. SO₂ emissions will be reduced by 80 percent this year with a second phase of controls in 2013 to achieve 85 percent SO₂ emission reductions. The Healthy Air Act also sets a 90 percent reduction in mercury by 2013.

Maryland's powerplants quickly met this challenge by immediately installing and operating pollution emission reductions technologies. In less than 3 years Maryland's State electricity generators began achieving significant mercury, SO₂ and NO_x emissions reductions. The Maryland Department of Environment tells me that all of our power generators are either meeting or are on schedule to meet the near term targets of Maryland's Healthy Air Act.

The Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010 supports Maryland's mercury and SO₂ reductions goals. Because Maryland has taken positive steps to also reduce NO_x emissions I must work to

ensure that any national standard supports Maryland's healthy air attainment limits for NO_x as well.

Being a downwind State that must mitigate or offset pollution that travels in from other States has made it especially challenging for Maryland to be in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, NAAQS, for ozone and fine particulate matter by the Federal deadline of 2010. Maryland is doing its part.

I mention all of this so that my colleagues understand how important strong clean air requirements are to me and to Maryland. I support the goal of cleaner air and I think the approach the Clean Air Act Amendments of 2010 takes is correct. I very much want to save lives by cleaning up our air and I want to work with Senator CARPER, Senator ALEXANDER and the other sponsors of this bill to make it stronger. Specifically, I want to ensure that EPA will review its air quality standards. Should the agency's analysis of the ozone standard indicate that additional NO_x emissions reductions are necessary to protect public health it is important that the EPA has a congressional mandate to act to strengthen the emission reduction requirement on NO_x to address this public health threat.

In a matter of days, EPA will issue its revised Clean Air Interstate Rule, CAIR, following the DC Circuit's determination that CAIR did not adequately address transport. Later this summer EPA will also propose new National Ambient Air Quality Standards. These landmark policies ought to guide what steps need to be taken to better protect public health and inform us about the congressional authority needed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN BERRY

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, my hometown of Silver City, NM, is in the southwestern corner of our State. It is the county seat, and the largest town for about a hundred miles around. Right on the edge of the Gila Wilderness, it has been called by others, not by just me, "One of the 100 Best Small Towns in America."

One of the reasons it is so outstanding is because of the tireless, thoughtful work of Susan Berry. For 36 years, she has been involved in historic preservation work in and around our town, and throughout the State of New Mexico. An early force of the MainStreet Project in Silver City and a longtime member of the Design Review Committee, she has done so much so well, that the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division recently gave her its Lifetime Achievement Award which she earned during a career of preserving the past for the future.

On Saturday of this week, she will retire after decades of service as director of the Silver City Museum. Her accom-

plishments in that capacity are too numerous to list, but as a result of her vision and skill, that museum has been accredited by the American Association of Museums, one of only thirteen in New Mexico to be so designated.

She has helped make Silver City a significant destination for travelers to the Southwest, and added to the list of reasons that 10,000 people like to call it "home." We are so fortunate that she chose to make the town the focus of her considerable ability and vision for so many years.●

REMEMBERING POLLY ARANGO

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Polly Arango, who died on Saturday, June 26, 2010, in a tragic accident in Alamosa, CO. Her husband, children, grandchildren, family, and friends have lost a very special individual. And New Mexico and the Nation lost a tireless advocate for children, particularly those with disabilities.

Polly spent her life working on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society. Early in her career, she organized programs that allowed American families to adopt orphans from Ecuador. She and her husband John later adopted themselves, providing loving care to a son who had severe developmental difficulties. Shortly thereafter, Polly began her lifelong work to ensure that other families in similar situations had access to vital education, health care, and support services.

To do so, she cofounded Parents Reaching Out, a nonprofit organization that works with parents, caregivers, educators and other professionals to promote healthy, positive and caring experiences for New Mexico families and children.

Polly also founded and served as the executive director of Family Voices, an advocacy group that strives to bolster both the access and the quality of health care for children with special needs. In her work for Family Voices, she, more than any other leader in the advocacy world, fought for family-centered care for children with disabilities. Her efforts with officials in New Mexico led to many important successes such as establishing the Medically Fragile Children's Program and the New Mexico High Risk Insurance Pool, reducing the school age for children with disabilities, and increasing coverage and services for children in Medicaid Programs.

Polly was very helpful to my staff and me over many years as we worked together on major health reform and education issues. She was in contact with us monthly and even weekly to inform us of developments in New Mexico and across the Nation and she had a wonderful ability to blend an understanding of complex policies with the practical needs of New Mexicans. I know she was particularly heartened by our recent passage of national