

FEBRUARY 25, 2004

**SCHAKOWSKY OPPOSES BUSH ADMINISTRATION PROPOSED MERCURY STANDARDS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) today released the following statement at a news conference held by environmental and consumer advocates in reaction to the Bush Administration's proposed rules to weaken mercury emissions. Schakowsky is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.**

**Below is Schakowsky's statement:**

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**"I am pleased that the Environmental Protection Agency has agreed to my request to hold a public hearing in Chicago on the Bush Administration's proposed rules to weaken mercury emissions control standards.□ □**

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**"The EPA will now have an opportunity to hear from many people in the Chicago-area about what it would mean if more mercury is allowed into Lake Michigan-our source of fresh drinking water, the impact mercury has on pregnant women and young children, and the effects additional mercury pollution would have on our state economy.**

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**"It is unconscionable that the Bush Administration is intent on weakening environmental protections knowing that the likely victims are the young and most vulnerable among us.□ The net effect of the proposed regulations may actually increase mercury emissions compared to the limits in current law.□ That is a policy that must be rejected for the sake of public health and our environment.**

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**"The public will not stand for this latest attack and I commend Illinois PIRG, advocates, and families who refuse to remain silent."**