

connecticut
O zero
Mercury Campaign

Dear Friends,

I am writing to ask you to join us in the Connecticut Zero Mercury Campaign. This is an important and critical effort to “virtually eliminate mercury in New England by 2010.” This effort is supported by partners across the region that are members of the New England Zero Mercury Campaign.

Mercury is a dangerous heavy metal and neurotoxin. According to a study by the National Academy of Sciences over 60,000 babies annually may be born in the U.S. with neurological problems due to mercury poisoning (*N.A.S. 7/11/00*). Furthermore, the FDA issued a warning that some fish contain high levels of a form of mercury called methyl mercury that can harm an unborn child’s developing nervous system (*Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. FDA, 3/01*). It goes on to warn that pregnant women or those who may become pregnant should refrain from eating swordfish, shark, tilefish and king mackerel. An advisory committee for the FDA is looking into adding tuna to this list.

In Connecticut, all freshwater waterways now have fish-consumption warnings due to the high levels of mercury found in the fish. Eating contaminated fish is primarily how people are exposed to mercury. The developing brains of fetuses are affected when pregnant women eat mercury-contaminated fish. Children who eat mercury-contaminated fish are also at high risk. That is why parents, physicians, sportsmen, health advocates and environmentalists are signing on to the Zero Mercury Campaign.

The main goals of this campaign are to warn people about the present danger while preventing future harm. Specifically, the campaign is working to:

- 1) Eliminate the use and emission of mercury in the region by 2010
- 2) Protect children and adults from existing harmful levels of mercury contamination in fish through effective health warnings and education.

To endorse the Zero Mercury Campaign, please fill out the endorsement form below.

Should you have any questions or would like more material on the effects of mercury, please contact John Gurley, Clean Water Action at (860) 728-1254, or e-mail: jgurley@cleanwater.org. Thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

John Gurley
CT Zero Mercury Campaign Coordinator

Zero Mercury Campaign: CT and New England

ENDORSEMENT FORM

We join many other organizations across the state in urging the Connecticut state government and the New England Governors Council to:

- **Create Connecticut State and New England Regional Zero Mercury Plans which result in virtual elimination of use and release of mercury by 2010.**
- **Implement protective and effective warnings on contaminated fish that truly protect young children.**
- **Eliminate mercury emissions from power plants and industry.**

Organization _____

Contact Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

E-Mail _____ # of Members _____

We would like to:

- Write an organization letter to Governor Rowland and/or Legislators
- Collect more letters from our members or community
- Write letters to our local paper(s)
- Meet with our legislators
- Attend local events
- Help organize local events such as press conferences or forums
- Recruit other organizations to join the campaign
- Other _____

Please send this completed form to:

Clean Water Action

118 Oak Street / Hartford / CT / 06106

Fax: (860) 727-0560

jgurley@cleanwater.org

For more information, contact:

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