



## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **“EPA Estimates the Health Benefit of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (Utility MAT) Rule at Only \$500,000 to \$6 Million but Estimated Costs are \$9.6 Billion Annually”**

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) urges the U.S. Senate to support the Joint Resolution of Disapproval 37, the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (Utility MAT) Regulation.

#### **1. Utility MAT has little to do with mercury**

It is important to note that IECA supports responsible cost-effective regulation of mercury. Unfortunately, the EPA “Mercury and Air Toxics Standard” (the Utility MAT) has little to do with mercury. EPA admits that the benefits of the rule are 99.996 percent related to particulate matter which is already regulated by other parts of the Clean Air Act.

#### **2. EPA’s estimates on benefits versus costs raise serious questions about EPA’s credibility**

EPA has estimated that the health benefits of the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (Utility MAT) regulation to be at only \$500,000 to \$6 million annually, while the costs are \$9.6 billion annually. The total estimated costs are \$90 billion.

#### **3. All of the EPA imposed costs will be paid for by consumers of electricity**

It is troubling to manufacturers – who have recovered only 418,000 jobs from 2010-2011, while having lost 5.5 million since 2000, and who are struggling to recover from the Great Recession – to have \$90 billion in EPA regulation costs imposed upon us through higher electricity costs. EPA’s costs will reduce or possibly stall the recovery. This is not the time to increase our costs.

We share the environmental goals involved in many of the regulatory efforts, but we must find ways of addressing air issues cost-effectively.

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$700 billion in annual sales and with more than 650,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.*