

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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Minority (202) 225-3641

July 23, 2019

Dr. Noelle Eckley Selin
Associate Professor
Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
MIT Institute for Data, Systems & Society
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue (E18-437)
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Dr. Eckley Selin:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Wednesday, May 21, 2019, at the hearing entitled “Undermining Mercury Protections: EPA Endangers Human Health and the Environment.” We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Pursuant to Rule 3 of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, members are permitted to submit additional questions to the witnesses for their responses, which will be included in the hearing record. Attached are questions directed to you from members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your responses to the member who has submitted the questions using the Word document provided with this letter.

To facilitate the publication of the hearing record, please submit your responses to these questions by no later than the close of business on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. As previously noted, this transmittal letter and your responses, as well as the responses from the other witnesses appearing at the hearing, will all be included in the hearing record. Your responses should be transmitted by e-mail in the Word document provided with this letter to Jourdan Lewis with the Committee staff (jourdan.lewis@mail.house.gov). A paper copy of your responses is not required. Using the Word document provided for submitting your responses will also help maintain the proper format for incorporating your answers into the hearing record.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Ms. Lewis at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman

Attachment

cc: Hon. Greg Walden, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Hon. Diana DeGette, Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Hon. Brett Guthrie, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

**Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**

**Hearing on
“Undermining Mercury Protections: EPA Endangers Human Health and the
Environment”**

May 21, 2019

**Dr. Noelle Eckley Selin, Associate Professor, Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences,
MIT Institute for Data, Systems, & Society, Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ)

1. The 2011 Regulatory Impact Analysis estimated \$37-90 billion annually in health benefits from the MATS rule, a great majority of which would come from estimated reductions in particulate matter emissions. Specifically, the estimates quantified health benefits of reducing particulate matter at levels both above and below the standard of 12 micrograms/cubic meter set by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In his testimony, Mr. Gustafson suggested that health benefits that accrue from reductions below the NAAQS standard for particulate matter should be discounted because that standard is already set to be sufficiently protective of human health.

Are there studies that demonstrate whether there are health benefits to reducing particulate matter emissions below the current NAAQS standard? What do these studies conclude about such benefits?

2. The U.N. Minamata Convention on Mercury, which the United States signed in 2013 following the issuance of the MATS rule, is a multilateral agreement that addresses specific human activities which are contributing to widespread mercury pollution. You have studied the potential benefits to the United States of reductions in mercury that would result from the Minamata Convention in your paper with co-author Amanda Giang, “Benefits of Mercury Controls for the United States,” Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (2015).
 - a. Please explain how the United States can benefit from reductions in mercury from global sources and summarize your findings with respect to the magnitude of benefits to the United States that would result from the global agreement.
 - b. In your opinion, could a change to the MATS rule have an impact on whether other countries meet their obligations under the Minamata Convention to reduce global sources of mercury?

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- c. Could the benefits to the United States that you summarize in your 2015 paper be put at risk if there was a change to the MATS rule?