



September 12, 2005

To: **Members of the Senate  
Senate staff assigned to environment issues**

**PLEASE OPPOSE PASAGE OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 20 AND THE  
MOTION TO PROCEED**

**Background.** This year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its landmark Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) regulating mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. CAMR is currently the only regulation of power plants mercury emissions in the world. This rule, formulated over twelve years during two Presidential Administrations, will protect public health and will help maintain a robust domestic economy. Under CAMR, mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants will be reduced 70% nationwide through a cap and trade program similar to the acid rain program established by Congress in the 1990 Clean Air Act. Although the EPA rule will implement considerable reductions, it does not preclude states from creating stricter mercury controls if so desired.

**Situation.** On Monday, September 12, Senators Susan Collins and Patrick Leahy will offer S.J. Res. 20, a resolution to rescind CAMR and force the adoption of a maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standard. This will force utilities to increase their use of natural gas by almost 30%, as it is the only means available to achieve the reductions a MACT mandates. As a result of a MACT, natural gas and electricity prices are estimated to increase by 20%. Areas served predominately by coal-fired plants can expect to see a 45% increase in electricity prices. This will have a profound impact on consumers, small businesses and domestic manufacturing.

EPA has already begun to implement CAMR. Adoption of this amendment will be a serious setback to progress in reducing mercury emissions.

**Requests.** Please vote “No” on the motion to proceed on this resolution. If debate proceeds, please vote “No” on passage.

Thank you for your continuing interest in and support of policy issues important to the American steel industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew G. Sharkey III".

Andrew G. Sharkey III  
President and CEO