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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

March 9, 2009

Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
US Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

I am writing to thank you for acting quickly to begin addressing the environmental and public safety threats posed by coal ash at power plants across the nation.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a hearing on the Kingston, Tennessee, coal ash spill immediately after the disaster, and I raised that spill and the potential for similar disasters at other coal ash impoundments nationwide at your confirmation hearing. You acknowledged the threats these ash storage facilities pose to public health and safety and promised to address the issue quickly.

By announcing plans today to investigate coal combustion waste impoundments across the country, and by beginning the process of creating federal rules to ensure the safe management of coal waste, you have taken an important first step toward protecting families and communities from toxic coal ash waste in the future.

The Environment and Public Works Committee will continue to conduct oversight of this issue, and I look forward to working with you to address the dangers of coal ash throughout the country.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer

Barbara Boxer
Chairman

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