

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House of Representatives passed two bills (H.R. 2250 and H.R. 2681) that would repeal environmental protections against toxic air pollution. Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, voted against both measures and released the following statement:

**"Americans need more jobs not more toxic air pollution. The Republican plan to sacrifice the air we breathe is hazardous to our health and imposes a cleanup tax on our kids in the future. It is past time for this Congress to start focusing its energy on restoring a cutting-edge economy that puts America ahead of the competition, jumpstarts new industries and rebuilds our roads and bridges. That's what will get America's working families back to work. The two licenses to pollute bills would do none of the above."**

H.R. 2250 exempts incinerators from Clean Air Act requirements to reduce toxic air pollution produced by burning tires, chemicals, and other industrial waste. Air pollution from incinerators and boilers is responsible for 2,500 to 6,500 premature deaths annually, as well as thousands of heart attacks, respiratory ailments, and hospitalizations.

H.R. 2681 repeals three Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that require cement plants to clean up emissions of mercury and other toxic pollutants. Mercury is a powerful neurotoxin of particular concern for pregnant women and young children because it damages the developing brain. Cement plants are the second largest producers of airborne mercury pollution in the United States.