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**Clean Air Council Honors State Representative Babette Josephs with
*Environmental Leadership Award***

Philadelphia, PA- Clean Air Council has announced State Representative Babette Josephs as the recipient of its *2007 Environmental Leadership Award*. The *Award* is presented to an individual who has shown exemplary service to the environment and a commitment to the right of everyone to breathe clean air.

From her near-perfect lifetime record with the Pennsylvania League of Environmental Voters, to her leadership in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to protect bar and restaurant workers from exposure to dangerous secondhand smoke, Representative Josephs is widely noted as a champion of Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution. That Section guarantees that, “The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.”

In 2007, Representative Josephs sponsored H.R. 136, a Pennsylvania House Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that would ban the export of elemental mercury from the United States. Following its approval, she underscored the urgency of the resolution, saying, “Mercury is very harmful to pregnant women; as many as 630,000 U.S. children are born each year at risk of neurological problems related to mercury. If we don’t want our children to be exposed to mercury, why would we allow children in other countries to come in contact with it?”

“Many of our political leaders have learned to *say* what they think voters want to hear about the environment,” said Joseph Otis Minott, Clean Air Council Executive Director. “As a founder of an urban composting program, a committed recycler, and someone who actually rides mass transit, Babette Josephs lives according the environmental principles she speaks for. I can think of no better recipient for this award.”

Receiving the *Award*, Josephs noted, “I believe it is our responsibility to hand down a clean world to our children, and that's why I advocate so strongly for the environment.” “Whether it is reducing, reusing, and recycling; preserving urban green spaces; promoting PhillyCarShare, biking, transit, and walking; fighting for indoor air free of secondhand smoke; or using renewable energy, there is something everyone can do to preserve the planet,” she added.

About Clean Air Council

Founded in 1967 by forward-looking community leaders, policy makers, and progressive business leaders, Clean Air Council works through media outreach, citizen-based advocacy, and government oversight to protect everyone’s right to breathe clean air. With more than 7,000 members in Pennsylvania and Delaware, the Council takes a comprehensive approach to improving air quality, including high-impact programs to cut toxic mercury emissions, slow global warming, and reduce the air pollution that triggers asthma and other respiratory problems.