

**ADA American
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Raymond F. Gist, D.D.S.
President

April 7, 2011

Mr. John E. Thompson
Bureau of Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES)
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The American Dental Association has reviewed the recent **Submission by the United States, Mercury Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee**. We appreciate the willingness of the State Department to consider the important public health issues we have raised regarding dental amalgam and the willingness of the United States government to incorporate those considerations in this submission, in advance of the INC3 meeting later this year. In particular, we were pleased to see the emphasis on using the proposed treaty as a vehicle to promote prevention programs, thereby driving down the demand for all restorative materials. Thank you for your important efforts.

I would like to emphasize two additional points. First, dental amalgam is a healthcare product and such products should be addressed in any treaty separately from commercial products. We applaud the U.S. recognition that dental amalgam may be best addressed in a separate operative paragraph in any treaty document. Second, because of the important public health issues involved, the issue of dental amalgam should be placed under the lead of the FDA (or other health agency), rather than EPA. As you know, FDA is already addressing the material in an ongoing regulatory process.

Again, thank you for your efforts. We look forward to hearing from you on this important issue of public health.

Sincerely,



Raymond F. Gist, D.D.S.
President

RFG:JKB:mka

cc: Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State
Dr. William R. Calnon, ADA President-elect