

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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1997 Regular Session
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By: Delegate Guns

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1997

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Particulate Matter - National Ambient Air Quality Standards**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the United States Environmental Protection Agency to retain
4 and reaffirm the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate
5 matter and to conduct additional research prior to issuing a new particulate matter
6 standard or revising the existing particulate matter standard.

7 WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a responsibility
8 to review periodically the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for
9 particulate matter (PM) to ascertain if the NAAQS are sufficiently protective of human
10 health; and

11 WHEREAS, The EPA has proposed new standards for PM 2.5, including adding
12 separate standards for PM 2.5; and

13 WHEREAS, States, through their citizens, legislative bodies, and regulatory
14 agencies, have had success in reducing air pollution and meeting existing clean air
15 requirements; and

16 WHEREAS, The new standard could have significant impacts on citizens,
17 businesses, and local governments in many states by substantially expanding clean air
18 requirements; and

19 WHEREAS, EPA is proposing significant new monitoring requirements to
20 determine whether and where there is a problem with respect to the proposed new
21 standard for particulate matter; and

22 WHEREAS, There is substantial scientific uncertainty about whether tightening
23 controls on PM 2.5 or ozone would provide any significant health benefits, while the costs
24 of tightening controls on PM 2.5 and ozone would assuredly be high; now, therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND**, That the State
26 of Maryland supports the existing PM 10 standard and supports the EPA conducting
27 additional PM 2.5 monitoring and scientific research to address the issue of causality and
28 other unanswered questions before considering a new PM 2.5 standard or a revised PM
29 10 standard; and be it further

30 **RESOLVED**, That the State of Maryland respectfully urges the EPA to identify any
31 unfunded mandates or other administrative and economic burdens for state or local

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1 governments or agencies and identify the impact on small businesses and citizens of the
2 State due to modifications of the NAAQS for particulate matter; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
4 Legislative Reference to the Maryland Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S.
5 Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; and
6 Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest, Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert
7 R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Constance
8 A. Morella, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; President William J.
9 Clinton, Executive Office of the President, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.,
10 Washington, D.C. 20500; and Carol M. Browner, Administrator, Environmental
11 Protection Agency, 401 M Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20460.