



S.J. Res. 27's ATTACK ON CLEAN AIR FOR AMERICA

RESOLUTION WILL UNDERMINE STATES' RIGHTS AND HARM AMERICANS' HEALTH

November 2011

Senator Rand Paul's resolution to "disapprove" the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule would unravel health protections providing cleaner air for 240 million Americans

We all value being good neighbors, yet this principle is currently under attack by Senator Rand Paul. The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) is designed to protect communities from out-of-state air pollution—something a state is unable to do by itself. "Disapproving" CSAPR through S.J. Res. 27 would prevent EPA from protecting communities across the Eastern United States from dangerous smog and soot from power plant smokestack pollution; potentially *increase* emissions if companies decide to turn off already installed pollution controls; and, most importantly, cost thousands of American lives each year.

If S.J. Res. 27, a resolution to "disapprove" the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), is enacted, it would:

Result in thousands of preventable deaths, illnesses, and sick days due to soot and smog pollution. CSAPR will annually save up to 34,000 lives, prevent 400,000 asthma attacks, and avoid 1.8 million lost work and school days. The monetized health benefits of the rule are estimated at up to \$277.6 billion every year.

Undermine states' ability to meet clean air standards that protect its citizens. "Downwind" states cannot control the pollution that drifts into their borders and wreaks havoc on their citizens' health and economic welfare. Disapproving this rule will allow power plant smokestacks in one state to recklessly discharge pollution that harms human health in downwind states.

Unfairly penalize companies that have already taken or plan to take action to clean up emissions. About half of coal plants have installed or will soon install NO_x emission controls and about 65% of coal plants have or will soon have SO₂ emission controls. Companies that planned for this rule— which the power sector has long known was coming— are ready to comply. Companies can meet emission standards beginning next year in a variety of ways including through continuously running pollution control technologies already installed, relying on lower emitting electricity generation resources, switching to cleaner fuels, and purchasing emission allowances. Companies have had years of notice about this rule and were provided ample opportunity to provide feedback to EPA. In response to information provided by States and companies, EPA released revised allowance allocations on October 14th.

Prevents EPA from adopting a substantially similar rule to protect human health from smokestack pollution. S.J. Res. 27 would not only void the CSAPR, it would also permanently bar EPA from adopting a substantially similar rule. Although some claim that the Bush era Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) would be left in place, CAIR has been deemed unlawful by the federal court of appeals, so you can bet that there will be no shortage of power company attorneys that seek to block any efforts to restore CAIR. The end result of Senator Paul's anti-clean air legislation will very likely be that our nation has no clean air protections in place across the eastern U.S. to limit the smokestack pollution that drifts across borders and directly interferes with states' power to restore healthy air for their citizens.