



HJ0034

LRB097 11976 GRL 55599 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Many Illinoisans suffer from respiratory disease;  
3 in 2007, it was estimated that over 1.2 million people in  
4 Illinois (12.8% of adults) are burdened with asthma; and

5 WHEREAS, Air pollution causes major health problems for  
6 these and other Illinoisans; for the past 20 years, the State  
7 of Illinois has had one of the highest asthma mortality rates  
8 in the nation and has seen increasing prevalence, morbidity,  
9 and mortality rates; and

10 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection Agency  
11 (U.S. EPA) is charged by the United States Congress to protect  
12 and improve the nation's air quality as required by the Clean  
13 Air Act; and

14 WHEREAS, Clean air protections are good for Illinois'  
15 economy and help save money, as the average length of an asthma  
16 hospital stay is 3.3 days with a total direct cost of \$15,155  
17 per person; and

18 WHEREAS, On March 11, 2011, the U.S. EPA released the  
19 Second Prospective Study estimating the benefits and costs of  
20 the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990; the study found that the  
21 direct benefits significantly exceed their direct costs,

1 improving the economic welfare and quality of life for  
2 Americans; and

3 WHEREAS, That same report estimates that the economic  
4 benefits of reducing fine particle and ground level ozone  
5 pollution under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 will reach  
6 approximately \$2 trillion in 2020; these savings are a result  
7 of disease prevention, prevention of lost-work days, and from  
8 the prevention of approximately 230,000 premature human deaths  
9 in 2020 alone; and

10 WHEREAS, The U.S. EPA has a proven track record of  
11 cost-effectively cleaning up a variety of air pollutants as  
12 required under the Clean Air Act; and

13 WHEREAS, The U.S. EPA is poised to set a number of  
14 standards under the Clean Air Act in the next three years that  
15 will cut dangerous pollution to protect our health and  
16 environment; and

17 WHEREAS, These standards will address the reduction of  
18 toxic mercury pollution and ozone levels, and the curbing of  
19 carbon pollution from power plants; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we support the United States  
2 Environmental Protection Agency in its efforts to protect the  
3 health of Illinoisans and fulfill the charge of the Clean Air  
4 Act to clean up dangerous air pollution, including mercury,  
5 lead, soot, smog, and carbon pollution; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we oppose any efforts in Congress to weaken  
7 the U.S. EPA's ability to set standards to protect our health  
8 and cut dangerous air pollution from power plants and other  
9 large pollution sources; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That we urge the Governor to represent the State  
11 of Illinois as a supporter of the U.S. EPA's efforts to  
12 implement the Clean Air Act as appropriate; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
14 delivered to President Barack Obama, Governor Pat Quinn,  
15 Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lisa  
16 P. Jackson, and the members of Illinois' congressional  
17 delegation.