

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation • American Association of Respiratory Care • American College of Preventive Medicine • American Heart Association • American Lung Association • American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association • American Thoracic Society • Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America • National Association for Medical Direction of Respiratory Care
• National Association of County and City Health Officials • National Home Oxygen Patients Association • Trust for America's Health • Health Care Without Harm
Physicians for Social Responsibility

November 07, 2011

Dear Senator,

Our organizations write to express our strong opposition to S.J. Res. 27, a resolution by Senator Rand Paul that employs the Congressional Review Act to reverse the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). If enacted, S.J. Res. 27 would vacate CSAPR and the life-saving protections it provides to the public and bar EPA from reissuing any substantially similar clean air protections without express Congressional authorization.

CSAPR requires power plants to substantially reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides that contribute to life-threatening particulate matter and ozone air pollution in downwind states. Ozone and particulate matter are associated with numerous adverse health effects, including lung disease, irreversible reductions in lung function, asthma attacks, aggravation of other respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and premature death. EPA estimates that CSAPR will prevent up to 34,000 premature deaths, 400,000 asthma attacks, 15,000 heart attacks, and 19,000 hospital visits each year starting in 2014.

The rule covers emission sources in 28 states. It was developed after an earlier rule, known as the Clean Air Interstate Rule was deemed illegal and an insufficient response to the health threats posed by cross-state pollution. CSAPR provides much-needed public health benefits by reducing upwind air pollution that significantly contributes to ozone or particle pollution in downwind areas. Blocking CSAPR, S.J. Res. 27 would force people living in downwind states to continue to suffer from high levels of unhealthy pollution from out-of-state power plants.

A vast majority of the public opposes Congressional interference with EPA's implementation of the Clean Air Act. According to a nationwide, bipartisan study conducted for the American Lung Association, seventy-two percent of voters oppose Congressional action blocking EPA from updating clean air standards. Sixty-six percent of voters think the EPA should set pollution standards, not Members of Congress.

We urge you to vote NO on S.J. Res. 27 and similar attacks on CSAPR. The public health benefits of CSAPR are long overdue. We hope your constituents can count on you to protect their health in the face of efforts to block, delay and weaken these lifesaving protections.

Sincerely,

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