

1 State of Arkansas  
2 81st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 1997

As Engrossed: H2/21/97

H.R. 1011

4 By: Representatives Ferguson and Magnus

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

8 CONCERNING PARTICULATE MATTER RECOMMENDATIONS.

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### Subtitle

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CONCERNING PARTICULATE MATTER

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RECOMMENDATIONS.

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14 *WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering*  
15 *changes to the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) by tightening the*  
16 *ozone standard and adding a separate particulate matter (PM) standard for*  
17 *PM2.5 to the existing PM10 standard; and*

18 *WHEREAS, the American public enjoys better air quality today than at any*  
19 *time in decades, including a 20-percent decline in average PM10 concentration*  
20 *between 1988 and 1994, and a 12-percent reduction in PM2.5; and*

21 *WHEREAS, air quality will continue to improve as the levels of ozone and*  
22 *particulate matter continue to decrease under the current regulations, and*  
23 *levels of fine particulate precursors (sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide,*  
24 *volatile organic compounds) are projected by EPA to decline by over 11 million*  
25 *tons between 1990 and 2000; and*

26 *WHEREAS, there is no existing PM2.5 ambient air monitoring data for*  
27 *Arkansas; and*

28 *WHEREAS, current research indicates that there are many unanswered*  
29 *questions and uncertainties on this issue and the need for a more stringent*  
30 *standard, including: Divergent opinions among scientists who have*  
31 *investigated this issue; the lack of supporting toxicological data; the lack*  
32 *of a plausible toxicological mechanism; the lack of correlation between*  
33 *recorded levels and public health effects; and the influence of confounders.*

34 *WHEREAS, the EPA's Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC)*  
35 *concluded "that there is no bright line which distinguishes any of the*  
36 *proposed (ozone) standards as being more protective of public health"; and*

1           WHEREAS, no scientific proof exists that tightening controls on PM2.5  
2 and ozone would avoid alleged adverse health effects, while costs would  
3 assuredly be high; and

4           WHEREAS, the additional PM2.5 standard and lower ozone standard being  
5 considered would result in many additional nonattainment areas and emission  
6 controls in the State of Arkansas, including many rural communities, and would  
7 impose a significant economic, administrative and regulatory burden on the  
8 citizens, businesses, state, and local governments without commensurate air  
9 quality benefits.

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11 NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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15           THAT the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency retain the existing NAAQS  
16 for ozone; and

17           That the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reaffirm the existing PM10  
18 standard and conduct the additional scientific research needed to answer  
19 critical causality and other questions before a proposal for a new PM2.5  
20 standard is made; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that due to remaining uncertainties and the lack  
22 of causality between PM2.5 and adverse health effects, that EPA should abandon  
23 its current consideration of a PM2.5 standard until more information,  
24 including sound science and cost-effectiveness data are available; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the House of Representatives urges EPA to  
26 identify any unfunded mandates or other administrative and economic burdens  
27 for state or local governments or agencies that would derive from changes to  
28 the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter.

29           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of  
30 Representatives shall forward copies of this Resolution to the Administrator  
31 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and to all members of the Arkansas  
32 congressional delegation.

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/s/Rep. Ferguson, et al

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