

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997
4 By: Senator Bearden

S.R. 7

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONCERNING PARTICULATE MATTER RECOMMENDATIONS.

Subtitle

CONCERNING PARTICULATE MATTER
RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the EPA's Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) concluded "that there is no bright line which distinguishes any of the

1 proposed (ozone) standards as being more protective of public health"; and

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

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

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12 NOW THEREFORE,

13 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
14 OF ARKANSAS:

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

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

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

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

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

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