

RESOLUTION _____ - 2012

REQUESTING that the U.S. EPA and Ohio EPA Administrators fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to protect public health, natural ecosystems and the economies of Greater Cincinnati, Ohio and the United States.

WHEREAS, according to a report by the American Lung Association, coal fired power plants comprise the nation's largest stationary source of air pollution and have no current limitations on hazardous air pollutants such as mercury, arsenic and dioxin; and

WHEREAS, despite findings in the same report which ranks Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky as 9th worst in the nation for small particle pollution (PM 2.5), which aggravates heart and lung diseases and increases incidences of stroke, the Ohio EPA recently re-designated Cincinnati as an "attainment zone" under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM 2.5; and

WHEREAS, according to a report commissioned by the Clean Air Task Force, 1,221 Ohio deaths each year are attributable to pollution from coal plants; and

WHEREAS, many of Ohio's existing coal plants were grandfathered into the Clean Air Act and allowed to pollute at pre-Clean Air Act levels; and

WHEREAS, air pollution generated in one state affects many others, leading to a new federal Cross State Air Pollution Rule of which utility and energy company lobbyists have fought to delay implementation; and

WHEREAS, according the U.S. EPA's "Plain English Guide to the Clean Air Act," since 1970 air pollution from large, industrial sources has significantly decreased while gross domestic product has tripled and energy use has risen 50%; and

WHEREAS, the International Governmental Panel on Climate Change predicts that climate change will cause negative public health impacts from direct temperature effects, extreme weather events, climate-sensitive diseases, air quality, and other health impacts; and

WHEREAS the Union of Concerned Scientists predicts that higher temperatures from global warming will exacerbate ozone pollution, one of the main ingredients of smog; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2011 report from Environment Ohio, the City of Cincinnati was ranked the 16th smoggiest city in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events are striking with increased frequency in Cincinnati and elsewhere and with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at \$2 trillion or 30 times the cost of regulation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Massachusetts v. EPA* (2007) that greenhouse gases are “air pollutants” as defined by the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to regulate them; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act can work immediately to curb greenhouse gas pollution without new climate legislation or in conjunction with new climate legislation; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory signed the Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement, which has now been signed by more than 1000 U.S. mayors; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, City Council endorsed and adopted the Green Cincinnati Plan as the City’s roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move toward sustainability while saving money, creating jobs, and improving public health; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Council of the City of Cincinnati respectfully request that President Barack Obama, the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Lisa Jackson, and the Administrator of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Scott Nally fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act, including finalizing rules in progress and implementing finalized rules without delay.

Section 2. That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and sent to the above named parties; Rose Braz, Climate Campaign Director for the Center for Biological Diversity and the Cincinnati Green Group.

Passed: _____, 2012

Attest: _____
Clerk

Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Laure Quinlivan