

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 46th Legislature (1997)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1007

By: Rice

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution relating to the pending Environmental Protection Agency Rules changing the National Ambient Air Quality Standards relating to the Non-Attainment Standards for ozone and particulate matter; opposing proposed rules for lack of convincing data; requesting the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation oppose passage of proposed standards; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the State of Oklahoma have supported stringent measures and have achieved and maintained attainment status to protect human health through the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the six criteria air pollutants under the Clean Air Act of 1990 for particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, ozone and lead; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in response to a federal court order to review the national standards, has proposed to tighten the ozone and particulate matter standards as well as change the statistical methods by which compliance is measured; and

WHEREAS, the EPA Administrator has formally requested comments on the proposed rulemaking from the chair of both the Senate and House committees in the state that handles related legislation and

provided a bibliography of the studies examined by EPA and others;
and

WHEREAS, the scientific evidence provided upon which the proposed standard relies is inconclusive to support tightening the ozone standard and particulate standard to any specific number and method of calculation; and

WHEREAS, the effect of such new standards could result in the designation of Non-Attainment status for Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and several rural cities and counties of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the further result could have an immediate and dramatic effect on the cost of compliance at all local and state levels in the State of Oklahoma by imposing stringent requirements for pollution control at both great cost to our citizens and a limitation of legitimate activities; and

WHEREAS, the reality of compliance with the proposed standard in Oklahoma's towns and cities may not be achievable due to dust and particulate matter from high winds that are a daily occurrence if the standards are lowered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the response from the Oklahoma Legislature to the request for comment from the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency to the respective chairs of the Senate and House Committees for environmental legislation relative to the EPA-proposed rule changing the existing National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone and particulate matter is that because neither committee chair is convinced that the information supplied is adequate to determine with any certainty a specific new standard, with the associated statistical treatment of the data, the Oklahoma Legislature urges the EPA to develop scientific data that is specifically relative to each proposed standard and to provide relevant information for review by interested persons on those

proposed standards and to not proceed further with the current nonspecific information and related proposal.

THAT the Legislature requests the Oklahoma Congressional delegation to oppose passage of the proposed standards until the American public is convinced the benefits are worth the costs and until the EPA has adequately assessed the health impact, monetary impact, and the likelihood of ever achieving compliance by the State of Oklahoma due to the unique terrain and weather conditions that exist in this state.

THAT the Secretary of State shall distribute copies of this resolution to Ms. Carol Browner, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; Ms. Jane Saginaw, EPA Region VI Administrator; and each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

46-1-5772

KSM