

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 12-14

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: Coal-fired Power Plants

1 Whereas sulfur dioxide emissions from coal plants in Maryland were 31,465 tons (or 44% of the state's total sulfur
2 dioxide emissions) and nitrogen oxide emissions from coal plants were 16,823 tons (or 9.5% of the state's total
3 nitrogen oxide emissions); and

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5 Whereas, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide increase respiratory symptoms, emergency room visits and hospital
6 admissions for respiratory illnesses especially in asthmatics, children and the elderly; and

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8 Whereas, acute exposures to high levels of nitrogen dioxide can lead to a decline in pulmonary function and
9 increased sensitivity to bronchoconstrictors especially in children and asthmatics; and

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11 Whereas, elevated levels of nitrogen dioxide are associated with increased respiratory infections in children; and

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13 Whereas, fine PM pollution is associated with increase in cardiovascular mortality and all-cause mortality, for every
14 10 microgram increase in long term fine particulate matter pollution, all-cause mortality increases by 10% and
15 cardiovascular mortality increases similarly or possibly more (3 to 76%); and

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17 Whereas, the Baltimore -Washington corridor is the 8th worst area in the Nation for ozone pollution; and

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19 Whereas, six of the thirteen boilers in coal-fired power plants in Maryland have United States Environmental
20 Protection Agency-compliant Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology installed, which when operating
21 reduce emissions by 90-95 percent, and seven do not; and

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23 Whereas, of the 18 eastern states with coal-fired power plants, Maryland ranks 16th in terms of the percentage of
24 plants with SCR technologies installed for nitrogen oxide pollution; and

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26 Whereas, Maryland has two of the only coal plants in the Mid-Atlantic that operate without any post-combustion
27 emission controls for sulfur dioxide; therefore be it

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29 Resolved, that MedChi policy be that Maryland should require all coal-fired power plants to install and operate
30 Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) technology; and be it further.

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32 Resolved, that MedChi support all EPA limitations on sulfur dioxide emissions so that Maryland remains a state on
33 the forefront of environmental progress.

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36 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.