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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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