

Resolve 4-14/15

Passage: 9-0 on 2/23/2015

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
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**CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL**

Effective 3/5/2015

DAVID H. BRENERMAN (5)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
JON HINCK (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES, JR (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL CLEAN POWER PLAN,
STRONGER FEDERAL OZONE STANDARDS,
AND ALL NATIONAL, STATE, AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS
TO ENSURE HEALTHY AIR FOR MAINE FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, Maine families and businesses need healthy air to grow and succeed because when people are healthy, children do better in school, workers are more productive, and businesses can add jobs because their health insurance costs are lower; and

WHEREAS, air pollution can lead to asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, cancer, reproductive and developmental harm, and even premature death; and

WHEREAS, Cumberland County received a grade of “C” for ozone pollution on the American Lung Association’s 2014 “State of the Air Report”, and the Portland-Lewiston-South Portland metro area ranked tied for 93rd in the country in most pollution for ozone and; and

WHEREAS, the scientific links between carbon pollution, climate change, poor air quality, dangerous health outcomes, and costly medical care are well-established; and

WHEREAS, climate change is amplifying the amount of air pollution and natural allergens we are forced to breathe in Maine; and

WHEREAS, high heat, unhealthy ozone levels, increased pollen, and toxic smoke from forest fires are four climate-related threats to lung health that are particularly dangerous for children, seniors, and people with heart disease, asthma, or other lung conditions; and

WHEREAS, coal-fired power plants are the nation’s single largest source of carbon pollution, yet there have never been limits placed on the amount of carbon pollution they can emit; and

WHEREAS, cleaning up power plants can slow the rate of climate change, improve lung health, and reduce the health care costs related to poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, the federal ozone standard is outdated and not reflective of the best medical science, leaving Americans with a false sense of security about when the air is healthy to breathe; and

WHEREAS, air quality data shows that if the more protective ozone standard being proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency were in place, at least three times as many

unhealthy air days would be reported in southern Maine as currently get reported;
and

WHEREAS, strengthening federal standards for carbon and ozone is especially important for Maine, where we are on the receiving end of pollution from states to the south and west of us; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Power Plan is a reasonable and responsible approach to reducing the dangerous health effects of carbon pollution and climate change because it gives states broad flexibility but also measurable deadlines; and

WHEREAS, when put into place, the Clean Power Plan will save over 6,000 lives and prevent 150,000 asthma attacks each year, while its stronger ozone standards will yield at least \$7.5 billion annually in health and economic benefits according to the Environment Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, we don't have to choose between improving public health and helping our economy innovate and grow, as evidenced by data from the Environmental Protection Agency showing that the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at 30 times the cost of regulation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Portland City Council that the city affirms and commits to the support the proposed Clean Power Plan and stronger federal ozone standards, as well as to fighting climate change and ensuring healthy air for all citizens.