

**Center for Biological Diversity * Clean Water Action * Defenders of Wildlife
Earthjustice * Environment America * Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters * League of Women Voters
Natural Resources Defense Council * Sierra Club
Southern Environmental Law Center * Union of Concerned Scientists
U.S. Climate Action Network**

November 2, 2011

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our millions of members, activists, and supporters we urge you to oppose S.J. Res. 27, the Congressional Review Act resolution sponsored by Senator Rand Paul, which would void the life-saving Cross- State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). Senator Paul's proposal would allow more increases in dangerous air pollution and resulting health hazards than any action ever considered in the United States Senate.

Finalized this past July, the CSAPR will improve air quality for 240 million Americans by cutting power plant smog and soot emissions that cross state lines and contribute to unsafe levels of air pollution. This rule is needed to protect Americans in downwind states from the health and economic costs caused by pollution emitted in other states. Senator Paul's effort would void these standards and permanently block the EPA from ever issuing similar safeguards. This would put millions of Americans at risk, particularly children, seniors and those with respiratory disease.

The Cross-State Air Pollution Rule will save up to 34,000 lives, and prevent 15,000 heart attacks, 400,000 aggravated asthma attacks and hundreds of thousands of cases of other respiratory ailments *every year*. In 2014, the rule is estimated to result in up to \$280 billion in annual benefits.

Twenty-seven states in the eastern half of the United States will benefit from the CSAPR's significant reductions in sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, the two key ingredients in soot and smog pollution. That's why Attorneys General, health professionals, and state and local air quality officials have long advocated for this clean air protection.

Many utilities have been making substantial new investments in anticipation of complying with these standards. Nullifying these protections would punish responsible utilities and reward those that have fought or delayed cleaning up their own pollution. It would also only increase the regulatory uncertainty that utilities face, given the current legal uncertainty around the Clean Air Interstate Rule.

The Clean Air Act has a long and successful history cleaning up our nation's air and protecting

public health, due to solutions like those in the CSAPR that protect downwind communities from out-of-state air pollution beyond their control. We urge you to continue protecting public health by rejecting S.J. Res. 27.

Sincerely,

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