

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# **S. RES. 119**

Recognizing past, present, and future public health and economic benefits of cleaner air due to the successful implementation of the Clean Air Act.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 31, 2011

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. REID, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. INOUYE, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

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## **RESOLUTION**

Recognizing past, present, and future public health and economic benefits of cleaner air due to the successful implementation of the Clean Air Act.

Whereas for more than 40 years since passing with strong bipartisan support, the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) has saved lives and protected public health in the United States while creating jobs and enhancing national security;

Whereas the Clean Air Act has saved hundreds of thousands of American lives since 1970;

Whereas the Clean Air Act has helped industry in the United States lead the way in creating jobs in pollution reduction technology, creating more than 1,000,000 jobs in the United States and a multibillion-dollar market for pollution reduction technology and leading to tens of billions of dollars in exports each year to other nations looking to improve their own air quality, according to the Institute of Clean Air Companies and The Small Business Majority;

Whereas the Clean Air Act is estimated to provide up to \$40 of health and economic benefits to Americans for every dollar invested;

Whereas the Clean Air Act is credited with reducing air pollution from lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and ozone by 41 percent over the 20 years prior to the date of approval of this resolution, while over the same period, gross domestic product grew by 64 percent;

Whereas the Clean Air Act has protected children by reducing lead pollution in the air by 92 percent since 1980, significantly reducing the number of children with brain damage resulting from lead poisoning;

Whereas the protections offered by the Clean Air Act are credited with saving families in the United States each year from 54,000 cases of chronic bronchitis, 130,000 cases of acute bronchitis, 130,000 heart attacks, 1,700,000 cases of asthma exacerbation, 86,000 emergency room visits, 3,200,000 lost school days for children, and 13,000,000 lost work days;

Whereas the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Public Law 101-549; 104 Stat. 2399), which also passed with strong

bipartisan support, saves more than 160,000 American lives every year, has reduced power plant sulfur dioxide pollution by 64 percent and nitrogen oxides pollution by 67 percent, and has decreased acid rain deposits by 40 percent, all for a total investment of 82 percent less than originally estimated by the Federal Government;

Whereas the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 led to a phase-out by 1996 of the most harmful ozone layer-depleting products, for a total investment of 30 percent less than originally projected by the Federal Government, saving millions of Americans from skin cancer;

Whereas the Clean Air Act vehicle standards for cars, light trucks, and heavy duty trucks help—

- (1) to save drivers money at the gas pump by spurring fuel efficiency innovation, at an estimated savings to drivers of \$2,800 over the life of a vehicle; and
- (2) to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs while enhancing national security by saving an estimated 2,300,000,000 barrels of oil over the life of those vehicles;

Whereas there remains a need to reduce harmful pollutants under the Clean Air Act, including soot- and smog-forming pollutants, mercury, lead, arsenic, carbon monoxide, and carbon dioxide, to avoid negative health impacts on families and children that include brain damage and developmental problems for unborn children and infants, heart attacks and strokes, aggravated asthma attacks, lung damage, and early deaths;

Whereas according to the American Lung Association 1 in every 10 Americans lives in an area with unhealthy year-round levels of fine particle pollution, and 6 in every 10

Americans live in an area with unhealthy levels of 1 or more air pollutants; and

Whereas many of the leading medical professional and public health organizations of the United States, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation, the American College of Preventative Medicine, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the American Public Health Association, the American Thoracic Society, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the National Physicians Alliance, the Trust for America's Health, and the Children's Environmental Health Network, have stated that continued successful implementation of the Clean Air Act is "quite literally a matter of life and death for tens of thousands of people and will mean the difference between chronic debilitating illness or a healthy life for hundreds of thousands more": Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2                (1) recognizes the health, economic, and national security benefits of the Clean Air Act (42  
3                U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

5                (2) believes that the people of the United States  
6                deserve the cleanest air and healthiest lives possible;

7                (3) recognizes that the Clean Air Act programs  
8                have a record of providing clear short- and long-term  
9                health and economic benefits that significantly ex-

- 1       ceed the initial investments made in pollution reduc-
- 2       tion technology; and
- 3            (4) supports the protection of children and fam-
- 4       ilies from harmful pollution through continued im-
- 5       plementation of the Clean Air Act.

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