

## **Oppose Using the Congressional Review Act to Void Life-Saving Standards for Smog and Soot Pollution**

Senator Rand Paul has introduced a Congressional Review Act resolution (S.J. Res. 27) in the Senate to void health standards reducing smog and soot pollution from power plants and permanently blocking EPA from re-issuing similar safeguards. This resolution would be disastrous for our health, our air and the economy.

### **Enormous Benefits of the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule**

EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) cuts power plant smog and soot pollution that crosses state lines to contribute to unhealthy levels of air pollution in downwind states. EPA estimates that starting in 2014, the CSAPR will *every year prevent*:

- up to 34,000 premature deaths;
- 15,000 heart attacks;
- 400,000 asthma attacks;
- 19,000 hospital and emergency room visits; and
- 1.8 million days when people miss work or school.

These standards will protect 240 million Americans in the eastern half of the country, with annual estimated benefits of \$120 to \$240 billion, compared to \$2.4 billion in compliance costs.

### **Deadly Implications of the Paul resolution on the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule**

Not only would the Paul resolution void all of the health benefits of the CSAPR, it also would **bar** EPA from issuing *any standards* in the future that are substantially similar.

A resolution to void the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule would:

- Void not only the Cross-State Rule, but would also roll back air quality improvements achieved under the previous administration's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), which was adopted in 2005 but overturned in court and sent back to EPA for correction in 2008. A Congressional Review Act veto would mean future similar standards that reduce power plant smog or soot pollution that crosses state lines (like CAIR or CSAPR) would be permanently blocked. This means that just between 2012 and 2020, Paul's resolution would allow power plants to emit:
  - **31.4 million** more tons of smog-forming sulfur dioxide pollution; and
  - **1.4 million** more tons of soot-forming nitrogen oxide pollution.
- Eviscerate a Clean Air Act mechanism that Congress established to protect downwind states whose air quality is harmed by upwind states' pollution, blocking necessary steps for the country's heaviest polluting industrial sector.
- Pick winners and losers among utility companies – those that spent money to clean up pollution under CAIR would lose out, while those that disregarded forthcoming laws and kept polluting would win.

**We Urge You to Reject S.J. 27  
Protect 240 Million Americans' Health and Right to Breathe Clean Air**