

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 06-0130R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmember Kraft, President Dixon, Councilmembers D’Adamo, Young,
Holton, Mitchell, Reisinger, Clarke, Welch, Rawlings Blake, Harris, Curran, Conaway,
Branch

Introduced and adopted: January 23, 2006

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Healthy Air for Maryland – In Support of the Healthy Air Act of 2006

FOR the purpose of encouraging the Maryland General Assembly, during the 2006 Legislative
Session, to adopt meaningful Healthy Air Act legislation to reduce power plant pollution,
with significant reduction in carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury.

Recitals

According to recent reports, pollution from under-controlled coal-fired power plants causes
approximately 670 premature deaths, 17,325 asthma attacks, and 101,977 lost workdays in
Maryland each year. Approximately 1.1 million Maryland children live within 30 miles of a
power plant, the area in which the greatest health impacts are felt. Power plants are responsible
for 41 percent of total mercury emissions from all known sources. Each year in our nation, over
600,000 infants are born with an overexposure to mercury, which has been found to be especially
harmful to the brain development of children in utero.

The Maryland Department of the Environment has imposed mercury related fish advisories
on 183 miles of rivers within the State. In many of these cases, the human consumption of fish
has been prohibited because of extreme levels of mercury contamination. Soot, sulfur dioxide,
and nitrogen oxide emissions have been linked to cancer, heart disease, lung disease, ozone
pollution, regional haze, acid rain, and “dead zones” in the Chesapeake Bay. In addition, carbon
dioxide from power plants has led to, and will continue to lead, to rising sea levels and increased
severe weather, putting not only Maryland’s coastal and bay cities at risk, but also those of our
neighboring states.

The United States EPA, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, has reversed its
earlier determination that mercury is an air toxin requiring the strictest controls. Thirteen states’
attorney generals and several citizens groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics,
have filed lawsuits challenging the EPA’s fatally weak Mercury Rule.

The EPA has also proposed new rules governing fine particulate matter, known as soot. The
most dangerous of these are microscopic specks that can cause significant inflammation and
arterial damage in the bloodstream and the lungs. According to EPA estimates, particle pollution
kills about 20,000 people every year and hospitalizes many more. Despite considerable research

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

1 over the last few years that has expanded the list of adverse health effects associated with fine
2 particles especially among children and pointed to the need for stronger standards, the EPA's
3 proposed rules represent only a slight adjustment of previous rules.

4 More can be done. In order to protect the future of not only the citizens of the State of
5 Maryland, but also its environment, we need to pass legislation now. Everyday we wait,
6 pollution poses more of a risk to us and our children than the day before. The sooner we act, the
7 sooner relief will come, and the sooner the future generations of Maryland will be safe from
8 these invisible toxins that threaten our health and well being on a daily basis.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That this
10 Body encourages the Maryland General Assembly, during the 2006 Legislative Session, to adopt
11 meaningful Healthy Air Act legislation to reduce power plant pollution, with significant
12 reduction in carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury.

13 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor,
14 Members of the Maryland General Assembly, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the
15 Council.