ON NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the U.S. EPA to set primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, ozone, and sulfur dioxide (criteria pollutants) that, “allowing an adequate margin of safety,” are requisite to protect public health and welfare and confer protections to all citizens equally, and to review and revise the standards, as appropriate, every five years; and

WHEREAS, NAAQS should be science based; and

WHEREAS, in many areas of the country, ambient levels of pollutants have been significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, many states still are not in attainment; and

WHEREAS, achieving attainment of certain NAAQS “as expeditiously as practicable” is a challenge to some states due to transported air pollution from sources outside of the state’s jurisdiction and control; and

WHEREAS, each state has an obligation to design a State Implementation Plan (SIP) that puts the state on a path to timely attainment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES:

Urges U.S. EPA to reassess, as required by the CAA, and revise as appropriate, existing NAAQS in order to ensure that NAAQS reflect current scientific information;

Calls on U.S. EPA to effectively address transported air pollution if and when federal action is needed and appropriate;

Calls on U.S. EPA, in cooperation with states, to develop timely modeling baselines and projections to understand contributions of transported pollutant emissions to states with respect to each NAAQS from sources outside of the state’s jurisdiction and control;

Calls on U.S. EPA, in situations where state compliance with NAAQS may be impacted from transported pollutant emissions coming from sources outside of the state’s jurisdiction and control, to work cooperatively with states to address the situation;

Urges U.S. EPA to continue to work with states to further improve needed SIP processes and methods for affecting them, and to foster cost-effective and efficient NAAQS implementation strategies;
Calls on U.S. EPA to work with states to focus limited resources on highest priority/problem areas, and, where appropriate, allow states the flexibility to determine the best way for their programs to achieve national minimum standards;

Calls on U.S. EPA to work with the states that have nonattainment on good neighbor SIP obligations under the CAA to implement all reasonable control strategies to achieve timely attainment across the country.