

Senate Resolution 1007

By: Senators Staton of the 18th, Douglas of the 17th, Thomas of the 54th, Grant of the 25th and Harp of the 29th

**ADOPTED SENATE**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Relating to federal environmental quality standards; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency on June 20, 2007, proposed  
3 to tighten the eight-hour ground level ozone national ambient air quality standard from its  
4 present standard of 0.08 ppm to between 0.07 and 0.075 ppm, with discussions of a standard  
5 as low as 0.065 ppm; and

6 WHEREAS, tightening of the ground level ozone national ambient air quality standard  
7 would increase the number of counties in the United States that are designated as  
8 nonattainment counties and would move some nonattainment counties into more severe  
9 nonattainment levels; and

10 WHEREAS, to meet a tightened national ambient air quality standard, nonattainment areas  
11 would need to reduce ozone precursors, i.e., volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, a recent study prepared by NERA Economic Consulting and Sierra Research  
14 for the National Association of Manufacturers contains some alarming conclusions  
15 concerning the effects of a tightened national ambient air quality standard on the  
16 metropolitan Atlanta area; and

17 WHEREAS, the study found that, for the Atlanta area, the maximum implementation of all  
18 identified controls from the regulatory impact analysis of the Environmental Protection  
19 Agency would not result in the area meeting the tightened national ambient air quality  
20 standard, and additional measures would be needed to attempt to meet the standard; and

21 WHEREAS, the study concludes that it will cost the Atlanta area \$9.8 billion annually to  
22 meet a 0.07 ppm standard and \$17.9 billion annually to meet a 0.065 ppm standard in 2020  
23 and beyond; and

1 WHEREAS, the economic impact on the Atlanta area in 2025 of a 0.07 ppm standard using  
2 2007 dollars would be the loss of \$11.5 billion in gross regional product, 79,300 jobs,  
3 \$8.9 billion in disposable income, 112,800 people, and \$330.9 million in state tax revenue;  
4 and

5 WHEREAS, the economic impact on the Atlanta area in 2025 of a 0.065 ppm standard using  
6 2007 dollars would be the loss of \$20.8 billion in gross regional product, 143,200 jobs,  
7 \$16.1 billion in disposable income, 204,500 people, and \$603 million in state tax revenue;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, these impacts could easily cripple the economy of the Atlanta area and have  
10 profound impacts on its citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, greater flexibility in meeting air quality standards is needed; and

12 WHEREAS, greater focus should be placed on tools such as early action compacts and  
13 sequencing of standards; and

14 WHEREAS, analyses of costs and benefits of quality standards should be considered in all  
15 federal environmental legislation and regulations.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
17 urge the Georgia congressional delegation to oppose efforts by the United States  
18 Environmental Protection Agency to make air quality standards more strict, support more  
19 flexibility in attaining environmental quality standards, and support costs and benefits  
20 analyses of federal environmental legislation and regulations.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
22 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to each member of the Georgia  
23 congressional delegation and the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection  
24 Agency.