

Introduced by Senator Florez

February 6, 2006

Senate Resolution No. 23—Relative to federal clean air regulation.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Environmental Protection
2 Agency has proposed a new rule published in the Federal
3 Register that would remove significant clean air protections from
4 broad areas of California and other Western states, by providing
5 that rural areas would no longer have to meet federal rules for
6 windblown clouds of dust, and that mining and farming
7 operations also would be exempt from those requirements ; and
8 WHEREAS, State and local air quality agencies and other
9 parties have condemned these changes, stating that they weaken
10 public health and air quality protections, and one regional air
11 pollution control agency has called the United States
12 Environmental Protection Agency’s proposals “outrageous;” and
13 WHEREAS, State Air Resources Board officials have stated
14 that they are particularly concerned that the change in federal
15 policy could harm air quality in several regions of this state, and
16 weaken clean air enforcement efforts; and
17 WHEREAS, State regulators wrote “We do not agree . . . that
18 the available evidence is adequate to conclude there are few, if
19 any, adverse health effects associated with coarse particles
20 originating in rural areas,” and “Although there are only a few
21 studies to date ... there is sufficient evidence to conclude they
22 can induce adverse effects;” and
23 WHEREAS, While the proposed federal rule would apply
24 nationwide, its greatest impact on public health and air quality
25 will be in Western states like California because of its larger rural
26 areas and because dust is a greater concern in arid regions; and

1 WHEREAS, The proposed federal rule could have a
2 particularly devastating impact on public health and air quality in
3 the Central Valley of this state, where incidences of childhood
4 asthma and other respiratory diseases are higher than anywhere
5 else in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, There is a 90-day public comment period for the
7 adoption of the new rule; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, The
9 Legislature calls upon the United States Environmental
10 Protection Agency to withdraw the proposed rule and enforce the
11 current rules affecting particulate matter ; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the Legislature calls upon the congressional
13 delegation of this state to take action to prevent the
14 implementation of the proposed rule; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
16 this resolution to the Administrator of the United States
17 Environmental Protection Agency, to the members of the
18 California congressional delegation , and to the author for
19 appropriate distribution.