

**STATE OF MAINE**

—  
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN**  
—

**JOINT RESOLUTION MEMORIALIZING THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES TO EXPRESS THE STATE'S OPPOSITION  
TO THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY'S REVISED SUPPLEMENTAL COST FINDING FOR  
THE MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS**

**WE**, your Memorialists, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Maine now assembled in the First Regular Session, most respectfully present and petition the President of the United States as follows:

**WHEREAS**, under the United States Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, the United States Environmental Protection Agency finalized the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards to protect air quality and promote public health by reducing emissions of hazardous air pollutants from coal-fired and oil-fired power plants; and

**WHEREAS**, coal-fired power plants represent the largest source of mercury in the United States and were responsible for nearly half of all mercury emissions in 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, mercury, once released into the environment, can become methylmercury, which accumulates in living tissue and causes serious health effects, including neurological and reproductive disorders in humans and wildlife; and

**WHEREAS**, coal-fired and oil-fired power plants emit significant amounts of toxic metal particles, including arsenic, beryllium, chromium, cadmium, lead and nickel; and

**WHEREAS**, coal-fired and oil-fired power plants emit large amounts of acid gases and organic pollutants that are listed as hazardous air pollutants under the United States Clean Air Act; and

**WHEREAS**, mercury levels in Maine fish, loons and eagles are among the highest in North America, leading to a statewide advisory regarding mercury and fish consumption that has remained in effect since 1994; and

**WHEREAS**, our communities, businesses and industries depend on clean air and a healthy environment for the benefit of current and future residents, property owners and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, in Maine, commercial fishing contributed over \$500 million to the State's economy in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, pollution from coal-fired and oil-fired power plants threatens the quality of life and the livelihoods of Maine citizens, important Maine industries, such as commercial and recreational fishing and tourism, and small businesses that rely on a clean and healthy environment; and

**WHEREAS**, hazardous pollution from coal-fired and oil-fired power plants can travel significant distances and across state borders; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency reports that between December 2014 and April 2016, the deadline to achieve compliance with the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, coal-fired power plants in the United States made investments in control technologies and other related changes for over 112 gigawatts of capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency states that the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards have already reduced mercury emissions from the power sector by 86%, acid gases by 96% and toxic metals by 81% and protected public health and the environment accordingly; and

**WHEREAS**, controlling and reducing emissions of all air pollutants from coal-fired and oil-fired power plants, including pollutants not directly regulated by the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards but nevertheless reduced by the controls installed to implement the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, is providing improvements in the quality of the air and environment, to the benefit of Maine citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposed revised Supplemental Cost Finding for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards on December 27, 2018 that puts the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards in jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution must be initiated before the 60-day period expires following publication of the proposal in the Federal Register in order that opposition to the proposal may be communicated to the United States Environmental Protection Agency forthwith; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to respectfully request that the President of the United States direct the United States Environmental Protection Agency to withdraw the revised Supplemental Cost Finding for the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Donald John Trump, President of the United States, to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Andrew Wheeler, and to the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, William Wehrum.