



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Mercury is a highly toxic pollutant that can cause
3 long lasting health problems; and

4 WHEREAS, Mercury is especially harmful for unborn babies;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, High levels of mercury deposited in our State's
7 waterways have accumulated in fish tissue and forced the
8 issuance of advisories to restrict consumption of predator fish
9 caught from Illinois lakes and streams; and

10 WHEREAS, Illinois is required to develop
11 watershed-specific clean up plans for waters that are impaired
12 for fish consumption; because a significant portion of
13 deposited mercury can come from outside a particular watershed
14 or even from outside State boundaries, the State is counting on
15 a strong federal mercury reduction program as the most
16 effective tool to restore these impaired waters; and

17 WHEREAS, A large percentage of the mercury that is emitted
18 as an air-born pollutant from coal-fired power plants is
19 carried by the wind and deposited into Illinois lakes and
20 streams; and

21 WHEREAS, Coal fired power plants can be equipped with
22 controls to reduce the levels of mercury emissions; and

23 WHEREAS, The mercury reduction options proposed for coal
24 fired power plants by the United States Environmental
25 Protection Agency in the January 30, 2004, Federal Register are
26 insufficient to adequately protect the State's air and water
27 quality and are skewed to benefit coal mined in western states;
28 and

1 WHEREAS, A United States Environmental Protection Agency
2 contractor has estimated that, under the United States
3 Environmental Protection Agency proposed rules, 78% of the
4 electric generating units using Illinois and other eastern
5 coals would be required to reduce emissions while only 29% of
6 the units using western coal would be affected; and

7 WHEREAS, No consideration was given to different coal types
8 in previous United States Environmental Protection Agency
9 rulemaking, such as the Acid Rain program; and

10 WHEREAS, As a consequence of these new rules, the federal
11 government will encourage utilities to burn western coal rather
12 than Illinois coal; and

13 WHEREAS, These new rules will trigger a loss of jobs in the
14 Illinois coal industry, where many working families depend upon
15 the industry for their livelihood; and

16 WHEREAS, As part of its rulemaking proposal, the United
17 States Environmental Protection Agency intends to allow the
18 trading of mercury emission credits between electric
19 generating units that may cause local mercury hot spots; and

20 WHEREAS, There are currently available control
21 technologies to reduce mercury from all coal types; therefore,
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the United
25 States Environmental Protection Agency to adopt a responsible
26 program to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power
27 plants to the greatest possible extent; that, once adopted, the
28 programs be effective in achieving the reduction needed to
29 protect and improve our environment; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the United States Environmental Protection
2 Agency should provide for regulations that establish a national
3 mercury reduction program for coal-fired power plants that is
4 fuel neutral and that achieves environmental gains without
5 creating economic distortions in the coal market; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois does not support the
8 trading of mercury emissions credits between electric
9 generating units, but, if the United States Environmental
10 Protection Agency ultimately considers such trading,
11 allowances should be given to the State to distribute and
12 limits should be sufficiently restrictive so as to prevent
13 local mercury hot spots; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the Administrator of the United States
16 Environmental Protection Agency, the members of the Illinois
17 Congressional delegation, the Director of the Illinois
18 Environmental Protection Agency, and the Director of the
19 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.