

Meeting of September 15, 2014

South Portland City Council
Position Paper of the City Manager

Subject:

PROCLAMATION #2-14/15 - Supporting the Clean Air Act. Passage requires majority vote.

Position:

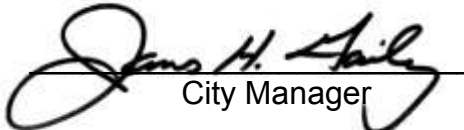
As Congress reconvenes this month to grapple with the federal budget and dozens of other contentious issues, the Maine Lung Association is working to make sure air quality standards do not get caught up in the fray. The Proclamation is in support of the federal Clean Air Act and the framework it provides for establishing science-based standards, monitoring air quality, and enforcing the rules that make the nation's air healthier to breathe.

The proclamation includes a variety of statistics related to the dangers of air pollution as well as the success of the Clean Air in its four decades of protecting public health.

According to the American Lung Association's 15th annual [State of the Air](#) report released in April. Bangor was ranked as one of the four cleanest cities in the country with Penobscot County receiving a grade of "A" on the report card. South Portland and its neighbors in southern Maine continue to experience unhealthy levels of ozone pollution, leaving Cumberland County with a grade of "C" and York County with a grade of "D" on this year's report.

Requested Action:

Council passage of Proclamation #2-14/15.


City Manager



CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND

GERARD A. JALBERT
Mayor

JAMES H. GAILEY
City Manager

SUSAN M. MOONEY
City Clerk

SALLY J. DAGGETT
Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry

IN CITY COUNCIL

PROCLAMATION #2-14/15

*SUPPORTING THE CLEAN AIR ACT AND ALL FEDERAL, STATE,
AND COMMUNITY EFFORTS
TO ENSURE HEALTHY AIR FOR MAINE FAMILIES AND
BUSINESSES*

District One
MICHAEL R. POCK

District Two
PATRICIA A. SMITH

District Three
MELISSA E. LINSOTT

District Four
LINDA C. COHEN

District Five
GERARD A. JALBERT

At Large
MAXINE R. BEECHER

At Large
THOMAS E. BLAKE

WHEREAS, Maine families and businesses need healthy air to grow and succeed because when people are healthy, children do better in school, workers are more productive, and businesses can add jobs because their health costs are lower; and

WHEREAS, air pollution does not respect state borders and Maine's geographic location puts us on the receiving end of air pollution produced in states to the south and west of us; and

WHEREAS, air pollution can lead to asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, cancer, reproductive and developmental harm, and even premature death; and

WHEREAS, dangerous air pollution levels can increase hospital admissions and emergency room visits as well as missed days of school and work; and

WHEREAS, unhealthy air can be particularly dangerous for children, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases, including the more than 22,400 Maine children and 104,300 adults with asthma and other lung diseases who may require expensive medical care on unhealthy air days; and

WHEREAS, the American Lung Association estimates that almost half of the people in Maine live in counties with fair to poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, while Bangor's air is one of the cleanest in the nation, southern Maine continues to experience unhealthy levels of ozone pollution; and

WHEREAS, for more than four decades the Clean Air Act has protected public health by reducing levels of smog, soot, and other air toxins; and

WHEREAS, nationally, the Clean Air Act has prevented an estimated 160,000 premature deaths, more than 130,000 heart attacks and over 1.7 million asthma attacks in 2010 alone; and

WHEREAS, we do not have to choose between improving public health and helping our economy innovate and grow, as evidenced by data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showing that the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at 30 times the cost of regulation; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act is a Maine tradition, having been established and subsequently updated and improved under the leadership of Senators Muskie, Mitchell, and Cohen; and

WHEREAS, monitoring air quality and enforcing the Clean Air Act reduces the dangerous air pollution that crosses into Maine and ensures the air is safe to breathe for Maine children and adults.

NOW, THEREFORE we, the City Council and people of South Portland, Maine, do hereby proclaim our support for our nation's Clean Air Act and our shared commitment to ensuring healthy air for all citizens.

Dated: September 15, 2014