



# THE WESTERN CONFERENCE

of

## The Council of State Governments



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### RESOLUTION NO. 11

#### CHANGES TO NATIONAL CLEAN AIR ACT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) gives the states the responsibility to meet national air quality goals under the National Clean Air Act, but does not give the states the corresponding authority to determine which areas will be designated for protection; and

WHEREAS, the EPA defines "visibility impairment" on the basis of vague and subjective criteria -- that of "natural conditions; and

WHEREAS, the scope of area protected under the "integral vistas" designation would have tremendous impact on the states' ability to develop their energy and mineral natural resources; and

WHEREAS, without the development of western states' energy resources, our country will continue to be dependent on foreign oil producing nations; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has created an extreme burden and disincentive for industry by requiring that the best available retrofit technology be applied to major plants, not necessarily just once, but as technology changes; and

WHEREAS, federal land managers have recommended that national monuments be designated class I; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has final authority over the content of state implementation plans for air quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Conference of the Council of State Governments urge the Congress to amend the National Clean Air Act to better allow states to proceed with

energy and mineral resources without excessive restrictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EPA be urged to re-evaluate and modify its policies and regulations concerning state involvement and implementation of clean air standards to give the states more authority for state and private lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the EPA and Congress be urged to modify specifically the standards for "integral vistas" designation and to allow the states to determine such designations.

Approved:

1980 Annual Meeting  
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September 30, 1980