

Title: Support AMA Climate Change Policies and Michigan Enactment of EPA Clean Power Plan Policies

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Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **AMEND**

Whereas, climate change is underway, causing 2015 to be the warmest year on record and 2014 the second warmest, and causing important consequences which are expected to worsen, including loss of biodiversity, changes in agriculture and food supply, extreme weather events, and rising oceans, and

Whereas, climate change is associated with many health problems including an estimated 200,000 deaths in the U.S. from air pollution, mostly from burning of fossil fuels<sup>1</sup>, as well as from infectious diseases and other causes, and

Whereas, our American Medical Association (AMA) has adopted many good policies pertaining to climate change that MSMS could also adopt in full or part, including: H-135.934 EPA and Green House Gas Regulation, H-135.938 Global Climate Change and Human Health, H-135.941 Air Pollution and Public Health, and H-135.949 Support of Clean Air and Reduction in Power Plant Emissions, and

Whereas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Power Plan, which would require states to reduce power plant carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent by 2030, was a major component of the United States' Intended Nationally Determined Plan brought to the 2016 United Nations' 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties (a.k.a., COP21) climate talks in Paris<sup>2</sup>, which would establish worldwide progress on climate change, and

Whereas, the EPA Clean Power Plan would have the effect of methodical phase-out of coal-fired power plants by 2030, leading to climate benefits, improved air quality, health benefits, less money leaving Michigan to purchase fossil fuels from out-of-state, and timely substitution of sustainable energy sources of the future, and

Whereas, AMA Policy H-135.934 supports EPA regulation of greenhouse gases, providing a foundation for MSMS support of the EPA Clean Power Plan, and

Whereas, the EPA Clean Power Plan has been placed on hold by the Supreme Court of the United States by a 5-4 vote, although the plan has not been reviewed by any court, and

Whereas, the EPA Clean Power Plan is to be carried out at the state level, and if Michigan were to proceed with this plan at the state level, it could achieve these benefits regardless of the Supreme Court decision and any other court decisions; therefore be it

49 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to  
50 promulgate rules to regulate and control greenhouse gas emissions in the United States; and be it  
51 further

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53 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the following policy:

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55 Our MSMS:

- 56 1. Supports the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's fourth  
57 assessment report and concurs with the scientific consensus that the Earth is  
58 undergoing adverse global climate change and that anthropogenic contributions are  
59 significant. These climate changes will create conditions that affect public health, with  
60 disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations, including children, the elderly, and  
61 the poor.
- 62 2. Supports educating the medical community on the potential adverse public health  
63 effects of global climate change and incorporating the health implications of climate  
64 change into the spectrum of medical education, including topics such as population  
65 displacement, heat waves and drought, flooding, infectious and vector-borne diseases,  
66 and potable water supplies.
- 67 3. Recognizes the importance of physician involvement in policymaking at the state,  
68 national, and global level and supports efforts to search for novel, comprehensive, and  
69 economically sensitive approaches to mitigating climate change to protect the health of  
70 the public; and recognizes that whatever the etiology of global climate change,  
71 policymakers should work to reduce human contributions to such changes.
- 72 4. Encourages physicians to assist in educating patients and the public on environmentally  
73 sustainable practices, and to serve as role models for promoting environmental  
74 sustainability.
- 75 5. Encourages physicians to work with local and state health departments to strengthen  
76 the public health infrastructure to ensure that the global health effects of climate  
77 change can be anticipated and responded to more efficiently.
- 78 6. Supports epidemiological, translational, clinical and basic science research necessary for  
79 evidence-based global climate change policy decisions related to health care and  
80 treatment; and be it further

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82 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports increased physician participation in regional and state  
83 decision-making regarding air pollution across the United States; and be it further

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85 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports (1) state legislation and regulations that meaningfully  
86 reduce power plant emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide; and (2) efforts to limit carbon  
87 dioxide emissions through the reduction of the burning of coal in the state's power generating  
88 plants, efforts to improve the efficiency of power plants, and continued development of alternative  
89 renewable energy sources; and be it further

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91 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports national enactment of the U.S. Environmental Protection  
92 Agency's Clean Power Plan and the implementation of the Plan's policies in Michigan.

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95 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

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<sup>1</sup> Caizzo et al, "MIT study", Atmos Env 2013; 79:198

<sup>2</sup> <http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/indc/Submission%20Pages/submissions.aspx>