

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: A-1  
(A-10)

Subject: Air Quality in Washington State  
Introduced by: Thurston-Mason County Medical Society  
Referred to: Reference Committee A

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1 WHEREAS, Washington residents value clean air in the communities in which they live,  
2 work, raise families and enjoy the outdoors; and  
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4 WHEREAS, according to a scientific statement by the American Heart Association (AHA),  
5 exposure to particulate matter (PM) air pollution derived from biomass incineration and other  
6 pollutants contributes to cardiovascular morbidity and mortality; and  
7  
8 WHEREAS, according to the AHA, exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter less than 2.5 μ in  
9 diameter) over a few hours to weeks can trigger cardiovascular disease-related mortality and  
10 nonfatal events; longer term exposure of several years increases the risk for cardiovascular  
11 mortality and reduces life expectancy in some exposed groups; and  
12  
13 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization estimates that particulate air pollution is the 13<sup>th</sup>  
14 leading cause of death globally, but that reductions in PM levels have led to decreases in  
15 cardiovascular mortality; and  
16  
17 WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently raised concerns about  
18 the carbon impact of biomass as fuel and is evaluating whether or not the carbon neutral status  
19 assigned to biomass burning is still justified; THEREFORE BE IT  
20  
21 RESOLVED, that the Washington State Medical Association urge state and local government  
22 to adopt policies to minimize the public health impacts of new and existing sources of air  
23 pollution.

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ ADOPTED AS AMENDED  X   
FILED \_\_\_\_\_ REFERRED \_\_\_\_\_ NOT ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_