
Ohio Environmental Council Testimony on Columbus City Council Air Quality Resolution
Submitted by David R. Celebrezze, Dir. of Air & Water Special Projects
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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the City Council's air quality resolution.

The Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is a state wide nonprofit organization whose mission is to secure healthy land, air, and water for all who call Ohio home. We have thousands of individual members and more than 120 conservation/environmental groups throughout the state. Our Air and Energy program has reduced tons of pollution throughout the state. We work with fleets, cities, the state, and federal government to bring about large air pollution reductions.

Poor air quality is a serious matter. Federal, state, and local governments have made strides in cleaning up the air. We support the resolution and encourage citizens of Columbus to take a moment, consider, and act on steps to reduce air pollution. Some of those steps include:

- *taking public transportation
- *Riding a bike to work or to run errands
- *Reduce the time idling a vehicle at places like the bank, gas stations, railroad crossings, picking someone up, warming up the car in the morning, and the like;
- *use less electricity; and
- *don't burn wood or trash.

We support City Council's air quality resolution and steps the city has taken to improve the air. We also encourage Columbus to continue its track record of reducing air pollution.

People can also get involved with OEC, MORPC, Clean Fuels Ohio, or other groups that are working with fleets and cities to reduce harmful pollution. In fact, we are teaming up with MORPC for an air quality luncheon on May 27th from 11:30 to 1pm. Council, health and business professionals are invited to attend. It is free, but RSVP is required.

The OEC's air quality work fits in well with this resolution. We fight for funding for state and federal grant programs; we are working with county Women, Infant, and Children clinics to get the word out on clean air;

We know that air pollution kills. Making people aware of the danger and steps they can take to reduce their exposure benefits our communities.

By reducing pollution we improve our health, environment, and economy. Thank you again for the opportunity to support this resolution.

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The mission of the Ohio Environmental Council (OEC) is to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. The OEC is Ohio's leading advocate for fresh air, clean water, and sustainable land use. The OEC has a 40-year history of innovation, pragmatism, and success. Using legislative initiatives, legal action, scientific principles, and statewide partnerships, the OEC secures a healthier environment for Ohio's families and communities. For more information, visit www.theOEC.org.