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ATS Statement on Clean Air Act Cross State Air Pollution Vote

"The American Thoracic Society is encouraged by the U.S. Senate's defeat of S.J. Res. 27, which would have vacated the Clean Air Act Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR).

"The Environmental Protection Agency recently finalized the CSAPR, which will require coal-fired power plants in 28 states to reduce the amount of emissions containing particulate matter and ozone that is exported to neighboring states. Both ozone and particulate matter can lead to asthma attacks, emergency room visits, heart attacks, hospitalizations and premature death. People with lung disease, including children with asthma, are especially vulnerable to the air pollution emitted from coal-fired power plants.

"When fully implemented in 2014, the EPA estimates that CSAPR will prevent up to 34,000 premature deaths, 400,000 asthma attacks, 15,000 heart attacks and 19,000 hospital visits each year. More than 240 million people will benefit from CSAPR, including those at particular risk for the harmful health effects of smog and soot. Children, senior citizens and people who work or exercise outdoors, as well as those who have chronic diseases, are at the greatest health risk from these pollutants.

"In defeating S.J Res 27, the Senate has taken an important stand on public health, safeguarding particularly our most vulnerable citizens."

Monica Kraft, MD, President-Elect of the American Thoracic Society