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For Immediate Release

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Court Dismantles Cross-State Air Pollution Rule

August 22, 2012—"The American Thoracic Society is dismayed by the D.C. District Court of Appeals decision Tuesday to vacate the Environmental Protection Agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). CSAPR called for reduced sulfur and nitrogen emissions from industrial sources that travel "downwind" to cause air pollution problems in neighboring states.

"If left unchallenged, the court's decision will leave no recourse to stop this dangerous pollution and force several downwind eastern states to breathe air pollution from smoke stacks in neighboring states.

"Until the court's decision is overturned, the EPA will continue to enforce the 2005 Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), which the same court determined was flawed in 2008.

"CSAPR was issued in 2011 to address the flaws of CAIR. Combined with other state and EPA actions, the CSAPR would have reduced power plant SO₂ emissions by 73 percent and NO_x emissions by 54 percent from 2005 levels by 2014. CSAPR would have yielded \$120 to \$280 billion in annual health and environmental benefits in 2014, including the value of avoiding 13,000 to 34,000 premature deaths.

"But the path to these environmental and health and environmental benefits has been blocked by the D.C. District Court of Appeals decision.

"Despite improvements in air quality, air pollution continues to be a national problem. Both ozone air pollution (smog) and particulate matter pollution (soot) continue to cause significant health problems, substantially adding to the number of asthma attacks, emergency room visits, heart attacks, missed school and work days and premature deaths each year.

"Several East Coast states have taken extraordinary measures to improve air quality but still can't meet EPA standards because of air pollution blowing in from neighboring states. The court's decision will further hinder them from reaching their goals and keeping their communities safe.

"The ATS has long supported the EPA taking a strong leadership role in air pollution transport policy, and we strongly urge the EPA to appeal the court's decision."

Sincerely,
Monica Kraft, MD
ATS President

More information about CSAPR can be found at www.EPA.gov/airtransport.

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