

RESOLUTION NO. 54-2002

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS, URGING STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO PROVIDE FULL FUNDING AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR THE TEXAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION PLAN.

WHEREAS, air quality impacts the public health as well as the economic health of our entire State; and

WHEREAS, federally designated nonattainment areas and near-nonattainment areas of Texas include 38 counties; the cities of Arlington, Austin, Beaumont, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Longview, Port Arthur, San Antonio and Tyler, and represent 70 percent of the State's population; and

WHEREAS, attaining compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act is essential for Texas to achieve long-term growth, prosperity and to continue to provide a high quality of life for its citizens and recognizing that air quality compliance continues to be among the most important and difficult challenges facing Texas; and

WHEREAS, given the integrated nature of the Texas economy all parts of the State will benefit when air quality compliance is achieved or would suffer if it is not; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) did not achieve the level of funding intended by the legislature and has therefore not been able to reach its full potential and create the emissions reductions intended; and

WHEREAS, without the reductions, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has provided notice that it will not approve the Dallas/Fort Worth attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan (SIP), will find that the previously approved Houston SIP has failed and will not provide for future potential reductions in the near-nonattainment areas; and

WHEREAS, failure of these SIPs and the lack of potential reductions in the near-nonattainment areas will trigger several sanctions in those affected areas that will negatively impact the entire Texas economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City Council of the City of Mesquite hereby urges the 78th Texas Legislature to adopt the following initiatives in priority order to preserve Texas air quality, enhance public health and promote economic prosperity:

- A. First and foremost, provide full funding for the next biennium for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) to make up for the shortfall in the anticipated funding from last session;
- B. Maintain the integrity of the TERP by ensuring that cleanup legislation improves the effectiveness of the TERP programs;

- C. Continue legislative funding, as set out in Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Legislative Appropriations Request for the 2003-04 biennium, to TECQ for ozone modeling research and to near-nonattainment areas conducting air quality planning activities including those activities necessary to support voluntary State Implementation Plan (SIP) submittals, ozone flex programs and early action compacts; and
- D. Support new, cost-effective programs or initiatives that improve the air quality that impacts the public health and economic health of our State.

SECTION 2. That this resolution shall take effect from and after its passage.

DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on this the 21st day of October, 2002.



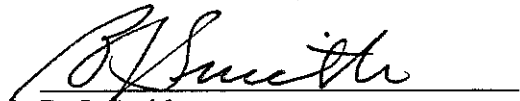
Mike Anderson
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Ellen Williams
City Secretary



B. J. Smith
City Attorney