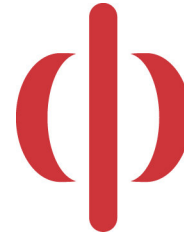


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**RESPIRATORY
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Court Overturns Power Plant Rule *Health Group Calls on EPA and Congress to Fix Critical Rule*

Chicago, Illinois—Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago today called on the Bush administration and Congress to make an “urgent fix” to an electric power plant cleanup plan struck down by a federal appeals court.

The controversy involves the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s so-called “Clean Air Interstate Rule,” issued by the Agency in 2005, and struck down on Friday, July 11th by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

“Literally thousands of people could die prematurely unless the government takes swift and decisive action to clean up power plants emissions,” said Ashley Collins, Environmental Health Associate, Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago.

The rule was a political compromise aimed at reducing electric power plant emissions of soot and smog-forming sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides by about 70% in the Eastern U.S. by 2015. According to EPA’s analysis, the pollution reductions would prevent 13,000 premature deaths in 2010, 18,000 in 2015, and 22,000 premature deaths in 2020.

Illinois has its own rules in place to dramatically clean up air pollution in Illinois. However, by striking down the CAIR Rule, Illinois neighbors will continue to negatively affect the air quality in our state. Air pollution reductions from the states of Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, Texas & Wisconsin were expected to benefit Illinois from the CAIR rule.

“CAIR was a crucial rule in protecting public health for the nation, as well as in Illinois”, said Collins. “It was irresponsible for the court to shoot down this rule. Now, it’s time for the EPA and Congress to fix this rule as quickly as possible.”

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Editors-

For more information, please see:

<http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/bin/opinions/allopinions.asp>

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanair2004/>

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