

**STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK HORTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure to appear before you and your distinguished colleagues on the committee to testify in support of the several companion measures to control air pollution in the District of Columbia. As a sponsor of one of these bills, H.R. 10017, I am gratified that you and the other committee members have acted so promptly to consider this much needed legislation.

Although I am a member of the House District of Columbia Committee, I shared the surprise of many of my colleagues when it was announced early this spring that the District of Columbia has the fourth worst air pollution problem in the Nation. Each of us is constantly exposed to air pollution and its effects and, as a result, we become complacent about the problem. To most of us air pollution is only a problem when atmospheric conditions in a particular locale are such that stagnate air poses an immediate and visible threat to life and property.

Many of us fail to recognize that air pollution continually threatens our health and property. "Crisis" levels of pollution occasionally cause people to collapse in the streets from suffocation in one degree or another but even worse is the fact that "normal" levels of pollution cause or aggravate respiratory diseases in tens of thousands of Americans. The unrelenting corrosion of metal exposed to the polluted urban atmosphere is not particularly dramatic but the property damage totals many millions of dollars annually.

Those who deal directly with the causes and effects of air pollution are increasingly aware of the fact that the Nation is faced with a problem of crisis proportions. Fortunately this concern by those working in the field of pollution abatement and control has awoken public officials to the crisis which confronts America. It is now generally recognized that all levels of government must act immediately to relieve the problem.

I am pleased that my own State of New York has been a leader in acting to solve the problem. With the aid of Federal enabling legislation, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Connecticut are joining in an interstate compact to combat air pollution. These States have established pollution control standards within this regional airshed as the first step in a far-ranging attack on the problem which confronts them all.

Mr. Chairman, the legislation which your Committee is considering today exemplifies the type of legislation which every city in the country should adopt as a first step in combatting air pollution. These bills, drafted by the Metropolitan Council of Government in the District of Columbia, are truly model legislation of general applicability. It is therefore particularly appropriate that such a bill be adopted by the Congress for the District.

If air pollution is to be controlled, all levels of government must be committed to difficult courses of action. The authors of these bills recognize this fact and set such a course for the District government.

For instance, the selection of the fuel to be used by a householder or industry was formerly regarded as a decision totally within the discretion of the individuals involved. However, with over seventy percent of the population today living in urban areas, the range of