

The present and proposed federal legislative efforts in this field, we believe, generally constitute constructive attempts to help clean up the air over America's cities, but they also lay down a direct challenge to state and local governments everywhere. In effect, the Federal government is saying to our local jurisdictions, "put your houses in order, or we'll do it for you."

The local governments of Metropolitan Washington are aware of this possibility and of the seriousness of the air pollution problem in this region. As a member of the Board of a large jurisdiction, I can appreciate the need for the larger cities and counties to adopt effective air pollution ordinances. As an elected official in a suburban jurisdiction, it is clear to me that the central city, in this case the District of Columbia, must have effective air pollution measures to supplement ordinances of suburban governments. And as the President of a metropolitan organization, I realize fully the need for all jurisdictions to take action on this regional problem.

I have been pleased to learn of the amendments to this legislation proposed by Congressman Gude. Since control of air pollution should remain a local function, it is essential that legislation provide local control. Because of this, we strongly favor those amendments which would enable the District of Columbia Government to revise its standards to suit local conditions, just as all other local governments are and must be free to do.

This ability to adapt to local conditions has been a key element in the fact that the ordinance is nearing adoption in our local jurisdictions. We feel that, with this provision, we can endorse this proposed legislation to the degree that it achieves local control while still providing an effective ordinance.

The need for legislation in this field is dramatic. The District of Columbia Medical Society has called air pollution in metropolitan Washington "a matter of urgent public health importance." The U.S. Public Health Service estimates that air pollution causes \$11 billion in damage to property every year in this Nation.

In the Washington area, this figure is approximately \$110 million. This is \$40 every year for every man, woman and child in Metropolitan Washington, a staggering sum to the general public, to the business community and to our cities and counties.

The Council of Governments over the years has called for action to fight this deadly enemy of life and property. We do so again today, Mr. Chairman, in the face of this increasing public urgency. Thank you.

Mr. MULTER. Thank you very much Mr. Babson. Can you make available to us, for our records, the studies you made or a report on the study you've made thus far?

Mr. BABSON. Yes. Dr. Lentz, I think, could make that available. Could you—the results of the studies you made?

Dr. LENTZ. I have been with the Council of Governments for approximately three months now. In the time that I have been there we have discussed some studies of damage to vegetation as a result of pollution in the air. What studies were made prior to my joining the Council of Governments were undoubtedly made as a result of activities concerned with developing the Model Ordinance. I'm talking now of formal studies. In the past three years we have been working closely