

**RESOLUTION OF THE STATES OF THE OZONE TRANSPORT COMMISSION  
SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL GROUP TO SUPPORT STATE  
AND TRIBAL ACTIONS TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL  
REGIONAL HAZE RULE**

WHEREAS there is a significant regional haze problem in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States; and

WHEREAS the occurrence of regional haze is interrelated with ozone and fine particles; and

WHEREAS the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1999 established a final regional haze rule which requires States over the next several years to submit regional haze revisions to their State Implementation Plans (SIPs); and

WHEREAS Federal Land Managers (FLMs) including the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service are responsible for "Class I" parks and wilderness areas protected by the Clean Air Act

WHEREAS certain Indian Tribes may also choose to submit Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs) similar in nature to SIPs to meet regional haze rule requirements; and

WHEREAS three Indian Tribes in the Ozone Transport Region, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Penobscot Indian Nation, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, have expressed an interest in participating in regional haze planning activities; and

WHEREAS both technical and other planning work is necessary to facilitate State and Tribal efforts to meet the requirements of the regional haze rule; and

WHEREAS the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) has collaborated with the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Air Management Association (MARAMA) to produce substantial technical information related to the nature of regional haze in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region; and

WHEREAS the District of Columbia and all OTC States except Virginia have been involved with OTC's effort to coordinate regional haze planning activities within the region; and

WHEREAS Virginia has participated in similar efforts with the Southeastern States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OTC supports the actions of the 11 States which have participated to date, the District of Columbia, the three interested Tribes, Federal Land Managers, and EPA to collaborate in a new forum for the purpose of pursuing regional haze planning activities, and facilitating State and Tribal submittal of Implementation Plans; and

FURTHERMORE that OTC recommends that any additional interested Federally recognized Tribes located within the geographic region of the 11 States and the District of Columbia should have the option to participate as well; and

FURTHERMORE that OTC recommends that the group of interested Tribes should have three votes; and

FURTHERMORE that OTC recommends that the Federal Land Managers and EPA should be asked to participate in an advisory capacity in the new forum in the same manner that EPA currently participates in OTC activities; and

FURTHERMORE that OTC recommends that the committee meetings of this forum should be open to the public; and

FURTHERMORE that OTC recommends that such committee meetings should provide a mechanism for outside parties to provide input on the work of this forum and its committees, and

FURTHERMORE that OTC recommends that participants in this new forum consider whether the creation of an advisory panel of outside stakeholders enhances its efforts.

Approved March 28, 2001