

RESOLUTION

Calling upon President George W. Bush and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to value all people's lives equally with respect to current and future policy and regulations concerning point and non-point source pollution.

WHEREAS, on behalf of the Bush Administration, John Graham, Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), last fall urged the Environmental Protection Agency to consider a conservative benefits scenario under which the life of a person 70, or older, would be demeaned and valued at 63% of a younger person's life; and

WHEREAS, the current federal policy of assigning a monetary price to a human life in a cost-benefit analysis raises serious ethical questions to begin with; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the second highest percentage of elderly citizens among the fifty states; and

WHEREAS, the new policy opens the Pandora's Box of characterizing different people's lives at different values based on the human characteristics of, not just age, but also, sex, race, national origin, religion, disability, income level, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, in addition, this policy of "discounting" the life of an elderly person lowers the overall benefit of a pollution remediation program in a cost-benefit analysis, having the effect of reducing the reason, or logic, for private industry, or government, to spend the cost of cleaning up pollution or preventing pollution; and

WHEREAS, the 867-page snowmobile/large spark engine rule finalized last year used significantly lower human benefit than originally proposed, therefore setting an unwise and unfortunate precedent for numerous pollution rules to be decided; and

WHEREAS, on April 23, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency will hold one of six national "listening hearings" in Pittsburgh, PA.

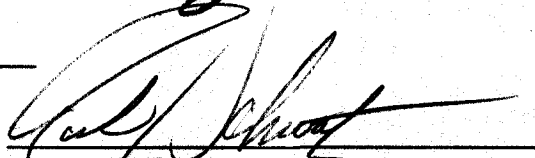
The Council of the County of Allegheny hereby resolves as follows:

That the Council of the County of Allegheny calls upon President George W. Bush and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to value all people's lives equally with respect to current and future policy and regulations concerning point and non-point source pollution.

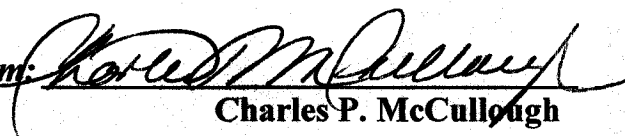
SPONSORED BY VICE PRESIDENT FITZGERALD

Enacted in Council, this 21st day of May, 2003

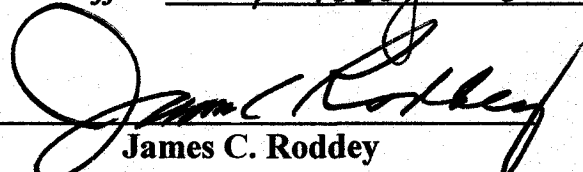
Council Agenda No. 1145-03

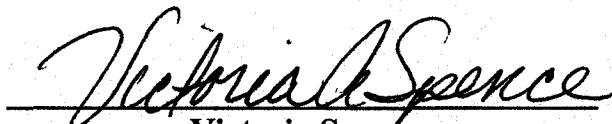

Rick Schwartz
President of Council

Attest: 
John Mascio
Chief Clerk of Council

Approved as to form: 
Charles P. McCullough
County Solicitor

Chief Executive Office May 28, 2003

Approved: 
James C. Roddey
Chief Executive

Attest: 
Victoria Spence
Executive's Secretary

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Allegheny

ROOM 119 • 436 GRANT STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

PHONE (412) 350-6490 • FAX (412) 350-6499



MEMORANDUM

To: Lisa Graves Marcucci
Jefferson Action Group

From: John Mascio, Chief Clerk

Date: June 2, 2003

Subject: Resolution No. 24-03-RE – Calling upon President Bush to value human life.

Attached is a signed copy of the above referenced Resolution which was passed in Council on May 21, 2003 and signed by the Chief Executive on May 28, 2003.