

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Authorize City Attorney to participate in legal proceedings with states and local governments nationwide to oppose efforts to vacate the proposed federal Clean Power Plan.

Contact name: Karen L. Moynahan, Sr. Deputy City Attorney

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Presenter name: Karen L. Moynahan

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

- Scientific evidence is increasingly clear that human activities are the primary cause of the accelerating changes to the global climate and that climate change poses a significant threat to Oregon's environment, will impact human health and wildlife, will impact City infrastructure, and will create new costs for families, businesses, and governments due to additional cost burdens in several sectors; and
- Climate change is a critical environmental justice issue because the impacts of climate change will disproportionately impact already vulnerable populations, including communities of color, older adults, children, and low-income individuals and families; and
- Given the increasingly catastrophic impacts of burning fossil fuels, there is a growing domestic and international move toward regulating and reducing carbon emissions; and
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency has promulgated regulations designed to reduce carbon pollution from power plants while developing innovative, sustainable future power sources (the "Clean Power Plan"); and
- A number parties, including carbon-generating industrial concerns and coal-producing states, have initiated litigation in opposition to the federal Clean Power Plan; and
- Interested states and local governments have organized to support the United States Environmental Protection Agency in defending the Clean Power Plan by either intervening as parties to the litigation or by filing for amicus curiae ("friend of the court") status to advise the Court of participants' positions on the Clean Power Plan and the litigation; and
- To protect the City's and its citizens' interest, the City seeks to lend its support to the federal Clean Power Plan by appearing in the litigation as an amicus curiae, which would support other City policies related to reducing carbon emissions.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The City will have no out of pocket or immediate financial impact except for a fee of less than \$500 for a Deputy City Attorney to be admitted to the District of Columbia Circuit Court. The work will be handled in house by existing City Attorney's office staff.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This is a legal matter not subject to involvement.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**

- ☐ YES: Please complete the information below.
☒ NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount