

By Mr. Cohen of Newton, petition of David B. Cohen for an investigation by a special commission (including members of the General Court) relative to the problems of acid rain. Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-One.

RESOLVE RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION TO STUDY THE PROBLEMS OF ACID RAIN.

1 *Resolved*, That a special commission to consist of fifteen
2 members, the Commissioner of Public Health, the Commissioner
3 of Public Utilities, the Commissioner of Environmental Manage-
4 ment, the Commissioner of Environmental Quality Engineering or
5 their designees, five consumers, three to be appointed by the Gov-
6 ernor, one each by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
7 the House, a representative of the electric utility industry, a repre-
8 sentative of the home heating industry, a representative of the coal
9 industry and three members of the scientific community with
10 expertise in environmental science to be selected by the other
11 members of the commission, is hereby established for the purpose
12 of making an investigation and study relative to the problem of
13 so-called "acid rain".

14 Said commission shall consider and study the scope and poten-
15 tial increase of coal burning in the Commonwealth, the sulfur
16 content of the coal being burnt, whether the increased burning of
17 this coal will significantly add to the acidic nature of rain and also
18 what would be the short and long term biological and ecological
19 consequences to the environment of the Commonwealth of an
20 increase in the acidic nature of the rain. Lastly, said commission is
21 charged with investigating and studying the following: —

22 1) Any impact increased coal burning and "acid rain" may have
23 on the residents of the Commonwealth.

24 2) What the economic impact of a ban or reduction in the
25 burning of coal would be to the industry and citizens of the
26 Commonwealth.

27 3) What are the most feasible long and short range alternatives
28 to the burning of high-sulfur coal in the Commonwealth.

29 The commission shall summarize the results of its investigation
30 and study and will develop a public policy regarding its findings.
31 The members of the commission shall receive no salary from the
32 Commonwealth. Said commission may from time to time report its
33 findings, but shall report its findings in the form of recommenda-
34 tions and any proposed legislation to the clerk of the House of
35 Representatives no later than one year after the activation of said
36 commission.