**MODEL CONGRESS 2016 Period 9**

Your Name: DeFilippo, Currao, Levy , Guido

Committee Name: Environmental Pollution

**Part I:** **Topic Overview \_**

1. ***Explain your topic (3- 5 bulleted sentences)***

The general topic we are using for our bill is environmental pollution, but our specific topic is air pollution. This topic is a national interest because it has to do a lot with the world. For example, it is a very main part in the U.S. as an environmental law. Air pollution is contamination of the atmosphere by gaseous, liquid, or solid substances that can endanger the health of human or any other living things.

People involved in pollution are energy companies, industries and manufacturing companies, EVERYONE. people that are trying to stop air pollution are Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management(NESCAUM), the Environmental Protection Agency(EPA), the Natural Resources Defense Council(NRDC) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

Our bill is proposing to help end the seemingly neverending air pollution factor. By this the next generations and the ones after that will have clean air to breathe and maybe it will help for cleaner water to drink. There is already a government group that does this, it is called the EPA.

***2. Why does this topic interest you? (3-5 bulleted sentences)***

* Do you have any background knowledge of your topic?  If so, explain.
* What particular event, news article or current event sparked your interest in this topic?

All I know about air pollution is that the gases in the air caused by

industries and fossil fuels can really endanger humans and other living things. Issues & Controversies sparked my interest in this topic because they have a lot of great information about this. Also, I have been taught new things about air pollution from this source, because I didn’t really know anything at all-

I do not really have any background information on Air Pollution but I know that it can get to be very dangerous. Issues and Controversies also sparked my interest in this topic because they very good information.

Air pollution is a very pressing matter. I’m interested in air pollution because it causes a lot of environmental issues such as acid rain, long term injury to people's’ and animal's’ lungs and hearts. Pollution in general is a huge topic, and in my opinion, needs to be addressed further by congress and the government as a whole.

I have always found our environment an amazing place. I believe that air pollution is a very is a very serious topic to deal with, and that it needs to be dealt with fast. I am interested because it proposes many issues that we have to deal with, to find new ways to work with it. I also believe that its issues need to be met by everyone, not just the government -

***3. What do you think are the current controversies surrounding your topic? (3-5 bulleted sentences) must use research***

Our topic is currently in the news. There are many, many groups involved with this topic. 5 companies:een 3 oils ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips have caused 12.5% of all industrial carbon pollution since 1854. In the last 30 years there have been bills, a lot of plane crashes, and loose planes in the sea in the U.S. In addition, there have been two nuclear plant meltdowns, including Chernobyl and Fukushima Daiichi.

Most of the different opinions resolving this problem are usually advice saying that we have to stop global pollution all together. Here is one of the biggest opinions associated with pollution: cutting down on carbon fumes by turning to electric or hybrid transport. The topic of pollution is a growing issue. The amount of carbon emissions put out by factories and cars is enough to cause the Earth itself to warm 0.5 degrees celsius over the last 25 years, says Edmond Mathez, curator of the department of Earth and Planetary Sciences for the American Museum of Natural History.

**Part II: Preliminary Research**

1. **What is the history/origin of your topic?**

Air pollution has become a national concern because over the last 3 decades, the Earth has warmed 32.9 degrees fahrenheit. Because of the warming temperatures, the polar ice caps have begun to melt, and that in itself will cause a host of problems, such as a rise in sea levels. For example, if all of the ice covering Greenland, Antarctica, and mountain glaciers were to melt, the sea would rise over 200 feet, covering most of the coastal cities.

There has been many dangerous events involving air pollution. A dangerous event involving air pollution even killed people! In 1948, in Donora, Pennsylvania, air pollution killed 20 people, made 600 people become ill, and 1400 other people needed medical attention.

2. **What are the issues/problems regarding your topic? *(Include a minimum of  3 problems/issues, 5-7 sentences)***

Our topic involves many, many industries, not just one specific group. Air pollution causes lots of problems for the entire world. The government runned group trying to solve this is called the EPA. (Environmental Protection Agency.)

One problem that needs more attention than others is fossil fuel usage and the alternative energy sources such as wind energy, hydroelectric power, and solar energy.

Problem #1: Some gases in the air from air pollution, like methane and carbon dioxide, can cause global warming. Global warming harms the environment. For example, the water rises in the ocean from global warming, and if the water rises too much, it can cause some floods, or if the water gets extremly high, places can go underwater!

Problem #2: Another problem is that factories are using too much fossil fuels. Such as coal, petroleum, and nitrogen bases. They have been using these for a very long time and a lot. For example, The reserves of these companies total 555 gigatons (Gt) of potential CO2 emissions, almost five times more than can be burned for the world to have an 80% chance of limiting global temperature rise to 2°C (3.6°.

Problem #3: One of the most dangerous problems is electric energy. Sometimes it matters where it comes from! Most of the power plants in America use fossil fuels and/or nuclear fuel. This causes pollution and harm to us and the world around. Only a very small percent of America uses wind farms and hydroelectric power.

**Part III: Narrow your Focus**

* From the above listed 3 problems, which one is most concerning?

We are going to focus on the topic of fossil fuels and carbon emissions. Today it is a serious because it is one of the main reasons that global warming is occurring. The most concerning form of usage of fossil fuels is energy companies. This is concerning because the energy companies are so stubborn to switch what fuel they use to generate power.How much there using is causing the air pollution. Such as coal, petroleum, and other nitrogen bases. This issue is very concerning, we need to reduce the usage.

1. ***Create a Preamble for your bill:***

**To require all manufacturers, industrial entities, and public utilities to reduce fossil fuel usage and emissions by 50% by September of 2021.**

**Part IV: Supportive Evidence**

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| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevance to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib)* |
| 1.Statistics | In fact, more than 20 energy companies have recently proposed building as many as 34 new nuclear power plants in the U.S., according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.The U.S. government quickly recognized the military potential of nuclear energy, and in 1942 started the Manhattan Project, a program to develop an atomic weapon. The program succeeded, and in 1945, the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, forcing Japan to surrender and bringing World War II to an end. Together, the two bombs killed an estimated 242,000 people, some immediately and others over time, through illness linked to radiation exposure. | Our bill is important with statistics because you need to have good evidence on the people who use it too much. For example, ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips have caused 12.5% of all industrial carbon pollution since 1854. The U.S. in the last 30 years there has been 3 oil spills, a lot of plane crashes, and loose planes in the sea. | According to Issues and Controversies on statistics on fossil fuel usage companies and factories. http://icof.infobaselearning.com/articles/energy-and-environment/nuclear-power-plants.aspx?sr=1&articleID=2050 |
| 2.  Statistics | If all proposed plants are constructed, collectively they would raise CO2 emissions by more than 25 percent above the levels in 2004, a rise of about 10 percent in total US CO2 emissions and a 2.4 percent increase in total world emissions. Of the 150 plants proposed, just 16 would use new technology (called "coal gasification") designed to minimize CO2 pollution. | This is relevant to fossil fuels because 16 power plants would use technology called “Coal gasification”, and coal is a fossil fuel. Coal gasification is the chemical process used to burn coal in thin or poor-quality coal seams, turning the coal into a gas used to generate power (Fuel). | **Kramer, Otis, and Tom Warhol. "Counterpoint: Coal Is Harmful To The**  **Environment." *Points Of View: Coal-Burning Power Plants*(2015): 3. *Points of***  ***View Reference Center*. Web. 24 Feb. 2016.** |
| 3. | In the world today, the carbon emission factor is above 400! This is why we need to take action fast. This is a statistic. |  |  |
| 4. Statistics | Coal-burning plants emit other sources of pollution that threaten public health in some of the most densely occupied parts of the country. Among these pollutants are mercury (which poisons fish swimming in streams and lakes and can enter the human food chain); sulfur dioxide, a form of fine-particle pollution that exacerbates respiratory diseases; and nitrogen dioxide, a source of air pollution known as "smog." In addition, in 2004 existing coal-burning plants reportedly dumped 300,000 pounds of toxic waste directly into rivers and streams, according to a report released by the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group. | This shows how fossil fuel plants emit dangerous chemicals that can harm our health. | **Kramer, Otis, and Tom Warhol. "Counterpoint: Coal Is Harmful To The**  **Environment." *Points Of View: Coal-Burning Power Plants*(2015): 3. *Points of***  ***View Reference Center*. Web. 24 Feb. 2016.** |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevance to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib)* |
| 5.Laws | This law is on gasoline prices. The major component of gasoline is crude oil, which is produced only in certain countries, most of them in the Middle East. A majority of those countries' oil drilling operations are run by their governments. The most powerful oil producer in the world is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a cartel of 12 nations that makes coordinated decisions about how much oil to produce. OPEC members include Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and several other nations. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) notes, "OPEC countries have essentially all of the world's spare oil production capacity, and possess about two-thirds of the world's estimated crude oil reserves. Oil prices have often spiked in response to disruptions in the international and domestic supply of crude oil."  Once OPEC decides how much oil to produce, member nations sell their oil to private companies and traders around the world, who may then sell it to refineries for conversion into gasoline. The price of oil thus depends on what oil traders consider it is worth, both at the sale time and in the future, following the **laws** of supply and demand. If, for example, people increase their driving—as they often do in the summer—but production by oil-rich countries does not rise, the price of oil will increase. If the price rises too high, oil-producing nations will be pressured to increase their output in order to lower prices. Higher prices will also prompt people to drive less and use less gasoline; as demand falls, prices will drop. | This law is very important with our bill because crude oil is a fossil fuel which is what some factories and companies use. | According to gasoline prices on http://icof.infobaselearning.com/articles/economy,-money,-and-business/price-of-gasoline.aspx?sr=1&articleID=1878 |
| 6. News Articles | More than 50 of the world’s leading doctors and **health** researchers called on charities to divest from **fossil** **fuel** companies in an open letter Thursday. The letter, published in the *Guardian*, argues that climate change poses a dire risk to public **health** and that **fossil** **fuel** companies are unlikely to take action to reduce carbon emissions without prodding.  “Divestment rests on the premise that it is wrong to profit from an industry whose core business threatens human and planetary **health**,” the **health** experts wrote. The case for divestment brings “to mind one of the foundations of medical ethics—first, do no harm.”The letter is the latest show of support for efforts to halt climate change from the medical community. Recent research has outlined a variety of public **health** issues caused by climate change, from heat stroke deaths to increased asthma rates. Just this week a study in *The Lancet* outlined how climate change could erode 50 years of **health** advances. | This is relevant to our bill because this shows how the use of fossil fuels can affect our health in a bad way. Fossil fuels cause many issues, from heat strokes to an increased risk of asthma.  **Divestment**: The opposite of an investment – it simply means getting rid of stocks, bonds, or investment funds that are unethical or morally ambiguous. When you invest your money, you might buy stocks, bonds, or other investments that generate income for you. | Worland, Justin. "Leading Health Experts Call For Fossil Fuel Divestment To Avert Climate Change." *Time.Com* (2015): N.PAG.*Middle Search Plus*. Web. 28 Feb. 2016. |

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| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevance to your topic** |
| 7.  Law  Montreal Protocol | The Montreal Protocol is an international law enacted to stop the depletion of the ozone layer by restricting the amount of substances, chemicals, and gases that will deplete the ozone layer.  According to Ozone Secretariat, “The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was designed to reduce the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances in order to reduce their abundance in the atmosphere, and thereby protect the earth’s fragile ozone Layer. The [original Montreal Protocol](http://ozone.unep.org/en/handbook-montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer/2160) was agreed on 16 September 1987 and entered into force on 1 January 1989.” | The Montreal Protocol has made over 720 decisions regarding air pollution and the regulations of compounds that deplete the ozone layer.  **Citation:**  <http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/montreal-protocol-substances-deplete-ozone-layer>. |
| 8.  Law  international committee | The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer does not require that countries take concrete action about restricting the use of ozone depleting substances, but rather the Montreal Protocol would be advanced throughout the countries of the world.  According to Ozone Secretariat, “The objectives of the Convention were for Parties to promote cooperation by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt legislative or administrative measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer.” | The Vienna Convention served as a framework for projects that help to protect the ozone layer.  http://ozone.unep.org/en/treaties-and-decisions/vienna-convention-protection-ozone-layer |

**Part V: Opposing Evidence**

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| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib--add source as you go)* |
| 1.  Statistics | As of 2007, the use of coal for energy was still growing and is predicted to double by 2030. The US has access to large stores of coal and thus this energy source creates more jobs than oil does and better ensures domestic security. | This statistic supports the use of fossil fuels because it says that fossil fuels like coal create more jobs than oil does, and better ensures domestic security. | Wright, George, and Marcus Griswold. "Point: Coal Is A Very Good Energy Source."  *Points Of View: Coal-Burning Power Plants*(2015): 2. *Points of View*  *Reference Center*. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |
| 2. Statistics | Fossil fuels are considered to be finite, nonrenewable resources because of the vast amounts of time the Earth needs to produce them; an energy source is only considered renewable if it can be replenished in a brief period of time. Around 85% of energy used in the U.S. comes from fossil fuels, and within the individual category of transportation fuels, the percentage is much higher. Some argue that the U.S. has grown too dependent on fossil fuels, and call for the U.S. government to do more to promote and foster the development of other energy sources. | This statistic shows how much the world is using fossil fuels which is creating the air pollution. | "Resolved: The U.S. federal government should substantially increase alternative  energy incentives in the United States." *Issues and Controversies*. N.p.,  n.d. Web. 2 Mar. 2016. <http://icof.infobaselearning.com/articles/energy-and-environment/ national-high-school-debate-topic-2008-09-alternative-energy-incentives.aspx?sr=1 &articleID=2045>. |
| 3.  percentage | Each 42-gallon barrel of oil typically yields these refined products (percent of barrel)[ii]:   * **44.9%** gasoline for use in automobiles * **29.8%** heating oil and diesel fuels * **20.5%** other products, including those derived from petroleum for the manufacturing of chemicals, synthetic rubber, and plastics. * **9.5%** jet fuel * **2.0%** asphalt | the chemicals and substances in the barrels of oil contribute a lot to air pollution | http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/topics/encyclopedia/fossil-fuels/ |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib--add source as you go)* |
| 4. Court Case | In the early 1980s, the federal government started to move forward sporadically in its attempt to design, approve and build a lasting nuclear-waste depository for the nation's nuclear waste. Progress was slow, and by the 1990s, state governments were becoming saddled with increasing amounts of nuclear waste at their local plants.  After it became clear that the DOE was not going to meet its 1998 deadline for the start of waste transports to a national storage facility, 30 states filed a joint lawsuit in federal court in the autumn of 1998 against the department, arguing that it was legally bound to take the waste. While the **court** ruled that the DOE could not be forced to begin accepting the waste at that time, it did state that the department was obligated to eventually begin transporting the waste. Furthermore, the **court**'s ruling allowed individual power plants to seek financial compensation from the government for breach of contract.  After taking office in January 2001, the Bush administration urged a reexamination of nuclear power in the formulation of its new national energy policy. Administration officials suggested that an increase in domestic nuclear energy production could help ease some of the nation's ongoing energy problems, such as high gas prices and periodic blackouts, by providing a clean, reliable source of power. "It is safe technology and doesn't emit any carbon dioxide at all," Vice President Dick Cheney, a proponent of nuclear power, said in 2001. "With the gas prices rising the way they are, nuclear is looking like a good alternative." | This court case is showing about how air pollution can affect the world in many ways and harm living things. |  |
| 5. Statistics | Coal- $0.10-0.14  Solar Thermal- $0.24  This compares the US average levelized electricity cost in dollars per kilowatt-hour for both non-renewable and alternative fuels in new power plants, based on US EIA statistics and analysis from Annual Energy Outlook 2014.  ***(See Argument #2 for more)*** | This statistic shows that fossil fuels are way cheaper than alternative energy. | Wright, George, and Marcus Griswold. "Point: Coal Is A Very Good Energy Source."  *Points Of View: Coal-Burning Power Plants*(2015): 2. *Points of View*  *Reference Center*. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |
| 6. Statistics    **Additional Evidence** | * Petroleum accounts for nearly 40% of our country's energy. * Coal is used to produce almost 60% of our nation's electrical power, and accounts for 22% of our overall energy consumption. * Natural gas, a third form of fossil fuel, accounts for roughly 23% of The United States energy usage. | Coal, Petroleum, and Natural gases are all fossil fuels. These statistics show that they are all used a lot to provide energy. | Wright, George, and Marcus Griswold. "Point: Coal Is A Very Good Energy Source."  *Points Of View: Coal-Burning Power Plants*(2015): 2. *Points of View*  *Reference Center*. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. |

**Part VI: Supportive Arguments**

What are the **three** main reasons/arguments that **SUPPORT** your topic AND choose the **TWO** best pieces of evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument For**: Fossil fuel emissions affect the environment in a negative way

Evidence 1: The Montreal Protocol is an agreement that every country in the world has signed, which makes it illegal to use copious amounts of ozone destroying gases and release them into the atmosphere. Scientists believe that because of this international law enacted in 1989, the “hole” in the ozone layer(that isn’t really a hole at all) will be healed around 2050, according to the United Nations Environment Program.

Evidence 2:  The topic of global warming is very concerning to many people. According to National Geographic, it would take more than 5000 years to melt the 5 million cubic miles of ice on Earth. F

2. **Main Argument For**: Endangers the humans and the animals.

Evidence 1: in 2004 existing coal-burning plants reportedly dumped 300,000 pounds of toxic waste directly into rivers and streams, according to a report released by the New Mexico Public Interest Research Group. Coal burning plants and other fossil fuel plants emit dangerous chemicals which can affect the health of humans and animals.

Evidence 2: More than 50 of the world’s leading doctors and health researchers called on charities to divest from fossil fuel companies in an open letter Thursday. The letter, published in the *Guardian*, argues that climate change poses a dire risk to public health and that fossil fuel companies are unlikely to take action to reduce carbon emissions without prodding.

3. **Main Argument For**:Fossil Fuel Usage is a big problem

Evidence 1: This is what is causing a lot of Air Pollution. Aiir pollution can affect our world is because when the fossil fuels are being used they can create pollution in the air with the fossil fuels. Such as coal, petroleum, and oil crude. Oil crude is a very big that is probably the most dangerous.

Evidence 2:Another problem about fossil fuels that don’t have to with companies and factories using it, this problem is endangering humans. For example, the water surrounding the U.S is a very valuable resource. So if the water is getting polluted it is not going to be good and that’s one way how pollution can endanger people. Creating air pollution can get into the air that we breathe which is bad for people and can maybe cause breathing problems.

4. **Main argument for:** Buyable alternatives for energy.

**Evidence:**  In the world today, there are many alternatives to energy today. Most of the alternatives today can really help and reduce our carbon footprint we are leaving behind for the next generation, and more to come. We can use hydroelectricity and we can use wind farm.

**Part VII: Opposing**

1. **Main Argument Against**: Fossil fuels are the easiest type of energy resource to use

Evidence 1: Fossil fuels are the most accessible, easy-to-separate fuels found naturally in nature. Geologists are searching everywhere for fossil fuels, they are easily accessible and with all of the scientific advancements, the refining and extraction processes have improved an enormous amount. Fossil fuels produce a lot of energy too, and they meet around 82 percent of America’s energy demands, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

2. **Main Argument Against**: Regulations are expensive!

Evidence 1: The state of Arizona almost went bankrupt thanks to its alternative fuels incentive program of 2000. Intended to promote the use of propane or compressed natural gas to run vehicles, the program was expected to cost the state between $3 and $10 million per year. But it was so poorly written, after about six months the state already had taken in claims for $700 million.

Evidence 2: This compares the US average levelized electricity cost in dollars per kilowatt-hour for both non-renewable and alternative fuels in new power plants, based on US EIA statistics and analysis from Annual Energy Outlook 2014.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Power Plant Type | Cost  $/kW-hr |
| Coal | $0.10-0.14 |
| Natural Gas | $0.07-0.13 |
| Nuclear | $0.10 |
| Wind | $0.08-0.20 |
| Solar PV | $0.13 |
| Solar Thermal | $0.24 |
| Geothermal | $0.05 |
| Biomass | $0.10 |
| Hydro | $0.08 |

Adapted from US DOE[**2**](http://www.renewable-energysources.com/#2)

3. **Main Argument Against:** There is a growing demand for energy.

Evidence 1: As of 2007, the use of coal for energy was still growing and is predicted to double by 2030. The US has access to large stores of coal and thus this energy source creates more jobs than oil does and better ensures domestic security.

Evidence 2: As of 2013, coal provided approximately 41% of the world’s electricity needs. And at 29% of total world energy supply, coal is second only to oil's 31% share.

Evidence 3:

* Petroleum accounts for nearly 40% of our country's energy.
* Coal is used to produce almost 60% of our nation's electrical power, and accounts for 22% of our overall energy consumption.
* Natural gas, a third form of fossil fuel, accounts for roughly 23% of The United States energy usage.

4. **Main Argument Against:** Many fossil fuels, like coal, can be easily found.

Evidence 1: Coal is plentiful and not subject to political fluctuations or decisions of foreign powers. The location of U.S. coal is well-known and there are existing technologies, already at work, to extract coal and ship it where it is needed. New environmentally friendly techniques for extracting coal are either being implemented or are under study.

Evidence 2: America has plenty of coal. Its mines produced 1.2 billion tons in 2008, nearly all of it destined for [electricity](http://needtoknow.nas.edu/energy/energy-sources/electricity/) generation. That was a record year, but it barely scratched the surface of U.S. recoverable coal reserves, which are estimated at about 270 billion tons.

**Part VIII: Government Spending**

“To create a new program, the government normally gets the money either by cutting funds to an existing program OR by raising taxes.” The budget has two large spending categories, **mandatory** and **discretionary**. Mandatory spending is required by law on specific programs. After those programs are paid for, the president and Congress may use the remaining money for discretionary spending on programs they choose. Each year, roughly 30 percent of the federal budget is in discretionary spending.  (Note-taking format)

1. Indicate whether your Bill’s spending will be discretionary or mandatory?

Our bill that we are proposing will be discretionary spending. This bill will be discretionary because the companies will have the choice to go with the better alternative, but most of the companies will not do that because of expense and the time put into the work. For example it will take a lot of time to switch their power source, and with that a lot of money can be lost due to the amount of time put into this.

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