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**Maine Medical Association  
Resolution RE: Better Health through Cleaner Cars  
September 2005**

**Resolution #2, “Resolution Promoting Better Health through Cleaner Car Emissions Standards Legislation”, submitted by the Public Health Committee was amended and approved as follows:**

**WHEREAS**, global warming is the single most important environmental threat that we face today, and,

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that global warming is and will be affecting Maine’s public health, natural environment, economy and cultural heritage, and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2003 the State of Maine was the first state in the nation to adopt a state-wide Climate Action Plan mandating a reduction of global warming pollution to 1990 levels by 2010, 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and approximately 75 to 85% below 2003 levels by 2050, and,

**WHEREAS**, pollution from Maine cars and light-duty trucks are responsible for 66% of all transportation-sector pollution and nearly 40% of the total statewide global warming emissions, and is expected to increase 41% by 2020, and,

**WHEREAS**, pollution from vehicles creates increasing levels of smog and toxic particulates that could lead to more frequent and severe cases of asthma and other respiratory diseases in Maine where adult asthma rates are already among the highest in the nation and children’s are the highest in New England, and,

**WHEREAS**, tailpipe emissions contribute to a statewide health epidemic. The EPA recently determined that 108 towns and cities fail to meet air quality standards and, in 2002, Maine had 17 bad air days. In addition, tailpipe emissions are the largest source of airborne carcinogens like benzene.

**WHEREAS**, implementing emissions standards for vehicles - coupled with the recently adopted Cleaner Cars Sales Goals program - is expected to reduce Maine’s statewide global warming pollution by close to 987 thousand metric tons of carbon dioxide, and,

**WHEREAS**, there are relatively few other policy options and ways to reduce car and truck emissions,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Maine Medical Association support the enactment of passage of legislation for Maine to adopt the current 2005 California Level emission standards for motor vehicles and support other efforts such as the Cleaner Cars Sales Program (like those passed by California and numerous other states) in the State of Maine as soon as possible.