

Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1983 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that many elements of Maryland's economy and quality of life depend upon the protection of the quality of the State's natural resources including the air, water, fish and aquatic life, soil, agriculture, forests, scenic, recreational, and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, Emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels may contribute to the acid deposition phenomenon, commonly called acid rain; and

WHEREAS, Acid deposition resulting from anthropogenic and natural sources is occurring in Maryland and this deposition could have significant adverse effects on the environment, the economy, and public health; and

WHEREAS, Emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from sources in one state may contribute to the acid deposition phenomenon in other states; and

WHEREAS, The federal government, other states as well as Maryland, and private industry are conducting comprehensive research and monitoring programs to determine the causes and consequences of acid deposition; and

WHEREAS, Coal is an important energy source found and utilized in Maryland, and research and development of innovative technologies for cleaner coal combustion are being developed by the federal government and private industry, and are under consideration for use by electric utilities in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Adoption of innovative techniques for cleaner coal combustion could lead to more cost effective and technologically feasible reductions in emissions of acid deposition precursors and stimulate the production of coal in Western Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Effective resolution of issues related to acid deposition requires action by the federal government which has not yet occurred; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been and is currently pending before the U.S. Congress proposing various methods of acid deposition control, many of which impose significant implementation requirements on private industry and State government; and

WHEREAS, In order for Maryland to adequately respond to any federal action, a comprehensive research and monitoring program on the sources, effects, and control of acid deposition in this State is needed; now, therefore, be it