

# Things to ask about Acid Rain...

Public opinion polls show an increasing awareness among Americans of the phrase "acid rain." Probing the depth of that awareness shows that it is regarded as a phrase connected with the "environment." After that, the kernels of knowledge become scarce

Here are some questions you might ask if you are one of those concerned Americans who wants to learn more about the subject

- Have there been any major breakthroughs in knowledge about the issue during the past year?
- How well do we understand the atmospheric chemistry of the sulfur and nitrogen oxides, their transport and ultimate deposition, and the ecological effects of acid rain?
- Are there any accurate estimates of the amounts of the sulfur and nitrogen oxides in the atmosphere? Is there any established relationship between natural and man-made influences?
- In the cases of most bodies of water claimed to have received damage, is the past history information too often anecdotal, frequently based on inadequate instrumentation and sometimes conflicting?
- Is forecasting where acid rain will fall an established scientific procedure?
- Are there instances where pollutants are transported in one direction across a boundary and subsequently transported in the opposite direction back across that boundary?
- Is some acidity in precipitation essential to the world's evolved biosystem?

The questions could go on and on. But, you get the idea. There is a great deal still unknown about the subject

The fact that there is a great deal unknown has not deterred a Senate committee in Washington from reaching a point where it may approve legislation supposedly designed to control acid rain

The sponsor of one bill admits that the proposed standards are "arbitrary" And, an aide has said "no one knows" if the legislation will do the job.

A report by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment states that this "quick fix" legislation will cost **\$2.2 to \$4.1 billion each and every year** in 31 states bordering on and east of the Mississippi River. For consumers in at least three states, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, **this could mean increases of as much as 50% in their electric bills.**

How does that strike you as overreaction and overregulation, something we supposed was passé in Washington these days?

We believe this is bad legislation and the wrong way to approach the issue We hope you do, too, and will let the following Committee members know your views by mail, phone or wire

Stafford (R - VT)	Randolph (D - W Va )
Baker (R - Tenn)	Bentsen (D - Tex )
Domenici (R - N. Mex )	Burdick (D - N D )
Chafee (R - R I )	Hart (D - CO)
Simpson (R - Wyo )	Moynihan (D - N Y )
Abdnor (R - S D )	Mitchell (D - Me )
Symms (R - ID)	Baucus (D - MT)
Gorton (R - WA)	
Murkowski (R - AK)	

Incidentally, we'll be happy to share the answers to the questions above Just write us at: Coalition for Environmental-Energy Balance, P.O. Box 15026, Columbus, Ohio 43215 (614) 464-0771

Coalition for Environmental-Energy Balance