

## **RAQPC Action Item Summary**

### **RAQPC Bylaws: Article 2: Section 2**

2. Review and make recommendations to H-GAC Board of Directors on proposed air quality rules, regulations and guidances.

### **Discussion:**

Advisory Committees are formed by H-GAC's Board of Directors to secure information, expertise and recommendations in the diverse areas of H-GAC's work. RAQPC is tasked with remaining current with environmental issues and plans in order to provide the Board of Directors accurate information to make sound decisions on environmental issues.

### **Summary:**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed entering Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions into the Clean Air Act (CAA). If the GHG emissions are entered into the CAA, GHG will become an additional pollutant to be monitored and regulated.

Many elected officials, professionals, and activists have deliberated on the GHG inclusion. GHG does affect air quality and public health, and has been linked to contributing to Climate Change. However, including GHG in the CAA may establish onerous regulations upon safety and the economy.

H-GAC staff has reviewed comments from the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). Both comments agree that there should be enough flexibility in the regulations to allow each area to determine and/or create the best possible GHG program for their area.

A 2006 nationwide study indicates that Light Duty Gas Vehicles (passenger automobiles) and Light Duty Trucks (pickup trucks) contribute to 16.5 percent of the GHG emissions. The AASHTO is committed to reduce GHG emissions from the transportation sector by eighty percent by 2050 while sustaining the transportation services people and businesses depend upon.

The CAFE standards will aid in AASHTO's four point strategy to reduce GHG emissions from the transportation sector by accelerating the production of personal fleet vehicles that obtain better fuel mileage. The AASHTO four point strategy is:

1. Smarter Travel: Reduce the rate of growth in the number of Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT) in the United States
2. Better Cars: Increase vehicle fuel efficiency
3. Better Fuels: Shift to fuels that produce low or zero carbon dioxide emissions
4. Optimize the System: Improve the efficiency and operation of roads