



# City of Philadelphia

City Council  
Chief Clerk's Office  
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## Legislation Text

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Calling upon President George W. Bush and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to value all people's lives equally with respect to current and future policy and regulations concerning point and non-point source pollution.

WHEREAS, On behalf of the Bush Administration, John Graham, Director of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), last fall urged the Environmental Protection Agency to consider a conservative benefits scenario under which the life of a person 70, or older, would be demeaned and valued at 63% of a younger person's life; and

WHEREAS, The current federal policy of assigning a monetary price to a human life in a cost -- benefit analysis raises serious ethical questions to begin with; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the second highest percentage of elderly citizens among the fifty states; and

WHEREAS, The new policy opens the pandora's box of characterizing different people's lives at different values based on the human characteristics of, not just age, but also, sex, race, national origin, religion, disability, income level, and sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this policy of "discounting" the life of an elderly person lowers the overall *benefit* of a pollution remediation program in a *cost -- benefit* analysis, having the effect of reducing the reason, or logic, for private industry, or government, to spend the *cost* of cleaning up pollution or preventing pollution; and

WHEREAS, The 867-page snowmobile/large spark engine rule finalized last year used significantly lower human benefit that originally proposed, therefore, setting a precedent an unwise and unfortunate precedent for numerous pollution rules soon to be decided; and

WHEREAS, On April 23, 2003 the Environmental Protection Agency will hold one of six national 'listening hearings' in Pittsburgh, PA; now therefore

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Calls upon President George W. Bush and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman to value all people's lives equally with respect to current and future policy and regulations concerning point and non-point source pollution.