

Auto law must be statewide — SEMCOG

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is urging the state legislature to ensure that any law requiring inspection of auto emission equipment be applied on a statewide basis, not just to this seven-county region.

SEMCOG proposals call for strong consumer protection controls, such as repair cost ceilings and mechanisms to identify conflicts of interest between the inspection and repair phases of the program.

SEMCOG officials said that unless a proposed auto inspection and maintenance (I/M) program is instituted across the state, it would be "unfair, economic discrimination" against southeast Michigan.

THE GUIDELINES were adopted by SEMCOG's General Assembly in anticipation of soon-to-be introduced state legislation designed to comply with the federal Clean Air Act. The federal act mandates I/M in areas of 29 states which fail to meet air quality standards.

The General Assembly, which met Nov. 1 in the Michigan Inn in Southfield, is composed of some 150 local elected officials from throughout the region.

SEMCOG chairperson Robert L. Bovitz, mayor of Trenton, said he hoped the legislature would carefully review the SEMCOG guidelines before it authorizes an I/M program.

"We hope that the policy package adopted by the General Assembly will encourage state legislators to adopt an I/M program that has reasonably achievable emission reduction goals and does not damage the economic growth of southeast Michigan," Bovitz stated.

UNDER THE FEDERAL Clean Air Act, all urban areas unable to bring their air quality up to certain federal standards by 1982 must have an I/M program in operation by the end of 1982, if not earlier.

Under such a program, cars and trucks would be inspected to see if they are emitting too much pollution. If they fail the test, their owners would be required by law to get them repaired.

According to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality, the seven counties of southeast Michigan will be unable to attain the ozone standards by the federal deadline. But several environmental and transportation planners say that it is virtually "impossible to predict who will meet the clean air standards and who won't."

"The air is also dirty in Grand Rapids, Lansing, Flint and other Michigan cities," says SEMCOG's Executive Director Michael M. Glusac, referring to documented non-attainment of ozone standards contained in the SIP. "But the Michigan Department of Transportation believes those areas will have clean air by 1982, so, they contend, these areas don't need I and M."

But Glusac complains that the state has no reliable scientific data to back this prediction.

"The state Transportation Department has developed its position based on assumptions involving scientific data which we believe to be incomplete, and air quality computer modeling techniques which are untested," he said.

SEMCOG'S KEY arguments in favor of a statewide auto inspection and maintenance program are:

1. There are documented ozone problems in other urban areas of the state, and it is uncertain if these areas will meet the ozone standard by 1982. Thus, to single out southeast Michigan for I/M is discriminatory.

2. Such discrimination could drive population and business out of the region as they seek to register cars or business vehicles elsewhere — at a time when this region needs to attract new business and jobs.

3. In 1977 there were 4.6 million cars registered in Michigan, with 2.4 million or 52 percent located in southeast Michigan. Unless I/M is adopted statewide, about 48 percent of the cars in Michigan would go untested.

4. The average car, traveling 12,000 miles per year, emits about 1,000 pounds of hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide pollution. A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency study of the I/M program in Oregon for example, has shown that repair of 1975-77 model year vehicles which failed an I/M test has resulted in average emission reductions of 47 percent for carbon monoxide and 42 percent for hydrocarbons.

5. Air flow is uncontrollable. If only southeast Michigan pays to clean up the air, the region has no way to protect itself from the pollution which blows into the region from other polluted areas.

THE GENERAL assembly also voted on a resolution calling for the restructuring of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The resolution asks Gov. William Milliken and the state legislature to consider dividing the DNR into two separate departments: One department would serve the fishing, wildlife, forestry and recreation needs of the state and a new Department of the Environment would be directly concerned with the protection of the urban and rural populations of the state from environmental pollution.

In presenting the resolution, Chairperson Bovitz said that inadequate planning and standards for the protection of groundwater and the disposal of toxic wastes by the DNR had contributed to serious pollution problems most recently in Springfield and Ridge townships in Oakland County.

"The Department of Natural Resources' indifference to our environmental planning was repeatedly reported to SEMCOG's elected officials during our water quality planning project," Bovitz stated. "And SEMCOG's early efforts to become involved in air quality planning were also ignored by the DNR."

Super joggers

A kickball race that may go on for 200 miles is a favorite sport of the Tarahumara Indians of Mexico. Known for their running skills, they take turns kicking a wooden ball — all day and night. Tarahumara hunters once captured deer by chasing them nonstop until the animals dropped from exhaustion, the National Geographic Society reports.

The ancient, inimitable artistry of the Orient... yours to see and own at our trunk showing

This exciting event has been months in the planning. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, we're bringing to three of our stores the incredibly beautiful "Friendship Collection" of jewelry and objets d'art from the People's Republic of China. Meet Cindy Cole, representative for the Friendship Collection, who has traveled to the Orient to bring these treasures back to you. She will be on hand to answer questions and help you with your selection. You'll choose from contemporary pieces and certified antiques in jade, cinnabar, Chinese silver, vermeil, coral, cloisonne, and enamel. Choose from rings, pendants, chokers, bracelets, pins and collectables such as vases and boxes. The sampling shown here ranges from \$22 to \$275, but you'll find even more valuable pieces in the store, priced all the way up to \$1000. Come, experience the timeless wonder of the Orient. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at these stores:

Oakland Mall—Friday
Northland—Saturday
Twelve Oaks—Sunday

hudson's

