Clean air

Senate passes bill to House

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

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STAT WARTEN

A deeply divided state Senate passed its version of a clean air program and sent it to the House of Representatives.

Michigan faces a Nov. 15 deadline in setting up a program of reducing air emissions 30 percent below 1990 levels.

Sen. Lann Pollack, D-Ann Arbor, warned that two of the seven bills are deficient if the state is to avoid sanctions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"If there is a malfunction (at an incinerator) and thousands of tons of pollutants are put into the air," Pollack said, "there is absolutely no consequence and, therefore, no incentive to the party that has produced the pollution. That unfortunately, tips the Clean Air Act on its head and is really an invitation to pollute.

Sens. William Faust, D-Westland, and Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, joined Pollack in protesting that measure.

Otherwise, area senators supported nearly everything in the seven-bill package. Three of the bills are in the House Conservation Committee.

Most of the opposition came from western senators because Kent, Ottawa and Muskegen

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Rich Studley Chamber lobbyist

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"These three counties are the victims of the transport of emissions from Chicago, Gary and Milwaukee," said Sen. William VanRegenmorter, R.-Jenison.

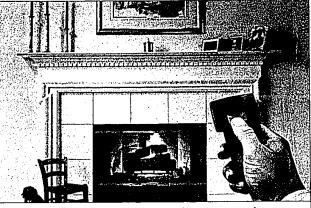
The new program adds the three western counties, along with Washtenaw, Livingston, St. Clair and Monroe to the list where vehicles must be inspected annually and repaired. Currently, the testing program applies to Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The new program also will require vapor recovery systems at gasoline pumps.

The Michigan Chamber of Commerce lobbied senators hard for passage of a state program, needed because EPA considers the 10 counties a "non-attoinment" area under the 1990 federal Clean Air Act.
Failure to act, said chamber

lobbyist Rich Studley, "could quickly close the door on companies looking to build new plants or expand existing facilities in southeast Michigan.
"In addition, if Michigan fails to submit a state implementation plan by Nov. 15, the U.S. EPA could withhold \$500 million in federal highway funds from the state.

To lawmakers who want to challenge EPA's authority, Studjesself, "the work of the state, and the st



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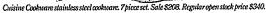
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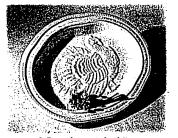
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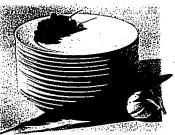
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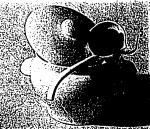


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