

Clean Air Act defended...

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The coalition will try to organize grassroots support by monitoring events at the national level and keeping concerned Nebraskans informed of latest developments.

"We try to stay on top of it," Carter said, "so that when an important issue is coming up, we can get letters out right away."

After sending out information on events in Washington, D.C., the group urges supporters to write letters and make phone calls to their congressmen, he said.

"We've got pretty broad-based support," he said. "We represent a lot of people."

The coalition receives updates on national happenings from national organizations and from Nebraska representatives, Carter said. He added that Rep. Hal Daub, R-Neb., is "pretty responsible" in keeping the group informed.

If standards are lowered, Carter said, the air quality will deteriorate within a few years, particularly in cities where cars are numerous.

"People will be getting sick, but they won't see it as the effects of pollution," he said. "The basis of clean air standards is the protection of public health."

Testimony scheduled

The American Lung Association will testify before Congress this week on the effects of lower air quality standards on high-risk individuals, including the elderly and those with respiratory problems, Carter said.

"Air pollution controls don't mean much without deadlines, though," he said.

Prevention of general rollbacks in the deadlines for complying with pollution standards is another of the coalition's major goals, he said.

The Clean Air Act, originally passed in 1970, contains a provision allowing for extension of 1982 and 1987 deadlines, he said, because some cities may be unable to meet them.

However, extensions should be granted on a case-by-case basis, he said, so that only cities with severe pollution problems, caused primarily by auto emissions, will be allowed more time.

Reiterating his belief that the Clean Air Act has proven effective, Carter said that as of 1977, 91 of the nation's 247 air quality regions were in compliance with national standards.

By 1987, the Environmental Protection Agency predicts that only 10 regions will not be in compliance if the Clean Air Act is retained, he said.

Lincoln has violation

Lincoln is in compliance with all standards except the level of carbon monoxide in the air, said Gary Walsh, chief assistant in the division of environmental health in the State Health Department.

In carbon monoxide, Lincoln is about 40 percent over national compliance standards, Walsh said, determined by using 1977 as a base year. Lincoln has many cars that aren't equipped with proper pollution control devices, he said.

Improper preparation can produce bacteria

What you can't see can hurt you when eating, said the interim chairman of the NU Medical Center's Family Practice Department.

Dr. Robert Bass said a variety of disease-causing bacteria can easily grow on food that has not been properly prepared or stored at the right temperature.

"Temperatures of around 85 degrees provide ideal conditions for the growth of bacteria," he said.

"That's why cold foods should be kept cold (under 45 degrees) and hot foods hot (more than 140 degrees)."

High protein foods, such as ham, poultry, potato and egg salads and cream filled pastries are highly susceptible to bacterial growth, Bass said. If these foods are left in warm temperatures, the bacteria can multiply and produce a toxic that causes diarrhea and nausea.

Home-canned foods can cause a more serious type of food poisoning - botulism. Bass said it is important to use proper canning techniques.

Omaha does not meet either the carbon monoxide standard or the "total suspended particulate matter" standard, Walsh said.

Suspended particulates include a number of different things floating loosely in the air, he explained.

"For cities their size, though, the air quality is quite good," he said.

In comparison with the rest of the country, however, Walsh said "it depends on what part of Nebraska and exactly what other state you want to compare."

"In western Nebraska, when it comes down to carbon monoxide, you don't have much of an air quality problem," he said.

"But they never monitor for carbon monoxide," he said, "and their particulate levels may be higher."

The Reagan administration has no broad, public support for its proposals, Carter said.

48 percent favor

He cited a recent Harris poll that showed 48 percent of the public thinks the Clean Air Act should be retained, 38 percent said the act should be made even stronger and 11 percent said it should be weakened.

Funding for the Clean Air Act is expected to be reauthorized, but also revised, causing the various proposals from both sides, Carter said.

"We (the coalition) want to be able to speak out on the issue and have an influence," he said.

"Right now, we're trying to refine our network. Senators tell us we're being out-gunned by the steel companies, chemical plants, auto industries and energy commissions and that what they need is response from the public."

"There's a lot of interest and a lot of concern."

"It's not detailed, or technical or legal opinion, but it's citizens who care, and who don't want to see the act weakened to the point where we're going backward instead of forward."

Packets ready for spring '82

Students who plan to attend classes during the second semester at UNL can pre-register starting Oct. 19.

Registration packets will be available at several campus locations starting Wednesday. The locations include the Office of Registration and Records in the Administration Building, the Nebraska Union, the East Union, Agriculture Hall and all residence halls.

The pre-registration period will be through Nov. 13. Students who pre-register may turn in their registration materials in the mail slot of the Bursar's Office in the Administration Building.

Persons outside the Lincoln area who want to pre-register for classes next semester may obtain their registration packets by mail by writing to Office of Registration and Records, 209 Administration Building.

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