

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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SEN. BARCIA PRAISES DEQ GRANTS FOR LOCAL TIRE CLEAN UP

Tuscola and Huron counties to benefit from funding

LANSING - Sen. Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) today praised the announcement by Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Steven E. Chester of a \$7,500 grant to Watertown Township in Tuscola County and \$8,200 to Albert H. Sonntag, Huron County, for the cleanup of scrap tire sites. The award is part of a grant package totaling \$3.9 million for the complete cleanup of 44 scrap tire sites and partial cleanup of two scrap tire sites statewide.

"This funding will reduce potential public health threats to local communities as well as the environmental concerns associated with such sites," Barcia said. "This means a measurable improvement in quality of life for area residents, while creating jobs to accomplish the clean-up."

The two-county effort will result in cleaning up 15,700 passenger tire equivalents (PTEs), a measure used to account for different weights and sizes of tires that may be present at a cleanup site. The statewide effort will remove 3.9 million PTEs.

The grantees will have until August 31, 2008, to complete contract requirements for having the tires removed and processed in accordance with a DEQ-approved tire removal plan.

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Sen. Barcia represents Senate District 31 that includes Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee where he serves as Minority Vice Chair of the State Police & Military Affairs and Higher Education subcommittee as well as on the Department of Community Health and the Department of Human Services subcommittees.