



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott
28th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 416
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of Feb. 26, 2007**

**Contact: Debbie Poire
(573) 751-8793**

Missouri Propane Safety Act

JEFFERSON CITY – This year I am sponsoring legislation to create the Missouri Propane Safety Act. Senate Bill 453 transfers the responsibility to regulate liquified petroleum gases from the Department of Agriculture to the Missouri Propane Gas Commission, which is created by this legislation.

The Commission's duties include developing propane safety plans and programs and supervising the administration of propane regulations. The Commission will set fees for propane installation inspections based on a per odorized gallon basis, which initially will not exceed one-tenth of a cent per gallon. All fees collected will be placed into the Propane Inspection Fund to administer the program.

The propane industry must develop an inspection program built around safety in order to keep insurance rates reasonable. SB 453 allows for the industry to pay on the wholesale end for an inspection system to ensure the industry continues to be a safe one.

As a former propane dealer, I understand the importance of safety inspections.

Today, propane is a \$30 billion industry in the United States and growing. In 2004, the U.S. consumed 19.8 billion gallons of propane for home, agricultural, industrial, and commercial uses. Of the 105 million U.S. households, 6.9 million depend on propane for their primary heating and cooking fuel.

Additionally, approximately 10 million more households use propane in one or more appliances, and 47 million homes use propane for outdoor grills. About 7 billion square feet of commercial space uses propane.

More than 1.5 billion gallons of propane are used on more than 660,000 farms every year. Propane is many farmers' first fuel choice because it is reliable, safe, clean and efficient, and can be used in hundreds of different agricultural applications.

56,100 Americans work in the odorized propane industry; 45,000 of them work for retail propane marketers.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us.

Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.