

PRESS RELEASE

STATE SENATOR MAIDA COLEMAN - 5TH SENATE DISTRICT



Room 421, State Capitol
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Phone: 573-751-2606

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Senator Coleman Honored by Economic Development and Business Leaders

ST. LOUIS – Sen. Maida Coleman, D-St. Louis, was honored this week by the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association (RCGA) for her outstanding leadership in pushing for legislation to enhance the economic development for St. Louis and for the State of Missouri.

Coleman was lauded for her ability to join the Senate body after a special election and immediately begin working on tough legislation that involved economic complexities and controversial public and media attention.

“The Economic Recovery Act was probably the most high profile bill in the 2002 session,” Coleman said. “While it was hard to come in as a freshman Senator and face all of the media and out-state opposition, I consider it a tremendous privilege to be able to work for a bill that keeps the Cardinals downtown where they belong.”

Coleman also serves on the Agriculture Committee, sorting legislation that would benefit rural areas and Missouri farmers.

“I think people forget sometimes that we’re all in the same state,” Coleman said. “An economic package for the metropolitan areas would be a stimulus to bring money in for all of Missouri, just as agricultural grants and programs benefit the cities through increased production and export. We need to look at a bigger picture when it comes to economic development in our state.”

The Mission of the St. Louis RCGA is to unite the region's business community, and to engage dynamic business and civic leadership to develop and sustain a world-class economy and community. RCGA Leaders said they were paying acknowledgment to the very lawmakers who upheld that principle within St. Louis and Missouri.

Coleman was also recently honored by the St. Louis Business Journal. The article appeared earlier this summer, stating that Coleman was the original sponsor of the Cardinals stadium bill.

Last session proved to be a challenging one for all lawmakers as Missouri's economy slipped into a downfall with the rest of the nation. In the midst of figuring out how to balance a tightened budget, the Senate sought out ways to create new revenues, like the bill created by Coleman for downtown redevelopment would have done.

"The City of St. Louis needs as much revenue as we can generate," Coleman said. "What we just couldn't get through to people is the stadium wouldn't have affected the state budget until 2005."

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Maida Coleman represents the 5th Senatorial District in St. Louis. She can be reached for questions or comments at her Jefferson City office at (573-751-2606) or emailed at: maida_coleman@senate.state.mo.us