



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn
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The Cauthorn Report

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, this week contacted our federal Congressman Kenny Hulshof’s office on how to counteract the BSE, or “mad cow” scare that has closed a number of foreign markets to U.S. beef.

“Exports make up 10 percent of a \$30 billion beef market,” Cauthorn said. “And with Missouri as the nation’s second largest beef producing state in the nation, it’s important to our way of life, our economy and our livelihoods to protect and expand beef trade lines.”

Cauthorn said he will continue to work on the matter with various state and federal groups until all the previously opened export markets are back online.

“I hope there is an opportunity to open up the closed markets and other foreign markets,” Cauthorn said. “A lot of this can be turned around by simply getting the message across that Missouri – and all US beef – is completely safe.”

A number of Cauthorn’s bills have advanced through the legislative process, including Senate Bill 742, which stops people from receiving unemployment benefits when the misconduct cited for terminating employment occurred outside of work.

Meant to aid employers statewide, Cauthorn notes his legislation would have been of great help to the Scotland County R-1 school district, which chose not to renew an employment contract with an aide charged with drug and alcohol possession off school time. Despite the district’s protest, the former employee then filed for and received unemployment checks.

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“Unemployment benefits are fully warranted by the vast majority of those receiving them,” Cauthorn said. “My bill simply puts a series of checks and balances into the system to make sure that employers aren’t stuck paying skyrocketing unemployment insurance premiums based on indefensible claims.”

A Senate committee also heard Cauthorn’s SB 992, which revises the definition of containers approved for transporting anhydrous ammonia. The revision will help prosecute illegal possession of anhydrous ammonia in non-approved containers, an act commonly associated with the production of methamphetamine.

Spurred by the recent tragic death of Sharon Craig, a Shelbina motorist killed after a deer hit her car, Cauthorn spoke on the floor this week on the issue of Missouri’s growing deer herd and the state’s stagnant response to the problem.

“As a livestock owner, I’m responsible for my property,” Cauthorn said, “and I think it’s time the state accepted responsibility for the loss of life, injury and damage to property caused by the unchecked deer population.”

Cauthorn has long called on the state’s Department of Conservation to take action and address the problem. Last fall, Cauthorn went to the top, writing department director John Hoskins directly:

“Deer are pulling down fence lines, trampling crops, eroding stream ways and loping across roadways like targets in an arcade game where motorists are the unfortunate target. Perhaps it is time to further expand the season to where deer are once again a part of Missouri wildlife and not as common as household pets.”

Citing deer herd mismanagement and a series of other department gaffes, within the Conservation Department, Sen. Cauthorn will introduce a measure in the Senate this session that would allow voters to decide every 10 years whether or not to extend the department’s 1/8-cent sales tax.

“I think we’ll find a more responsive, more accountable state agency if we put this tax to a vote every so often,” Cauthorn said of the department’s primary funding source. “The department fears a vote, and it needs that fear in order to listen to and act on Missourian’s concerns.”

Cauthorn said that information on these and all legislative proposals can be found by browsing his Senate website: www.senate.state.mo.us/cauthorn. Cauthorn’s web page includes a new link to information on a special Missouri/National Rifle Association license plate that Cauthorn has designed.

“Anyone interested in the plate can show their support online,” Cauthorn said.