



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

John Cauthorn
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 426
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
PHONE (573) 751-6858
TDD (573) 751-3969
FAX (573) 751-6900
EMAIL
john_cauthorn@senate.state.mo.us

For Immediate Release:
May 13, 2004

Contact: Jerry Dowell
(573) 751-6858

The Cauthorn Report

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Senator John Cauthorn’s legislation modifying provisions in the Missouri Rural Economic Stimulus Authority (MoRESA) to further expand and promote agribusiness opportunities cleared the General Assembly today and now goes to the governor’s desk.

“Missouri was built on agriculture in the early 1800s and continues to be a keystone to the state’s economy and way of life in the 21st Century,” Cauthorn said. “We’ve added new eligibility categories such as ‘new generation’ processors to expand participation in MoRESA and increase market opportunities.”

Cauthorn introduced his MoRESA expansions as Senate Bill 1155, which has since become an omnibus economic development act creating rural and urban jobs throughout the state.

“The provisions in SB 1155 will help sustain, speed and grow Missouri’s economic recovery,” Cauthorn said. “Things are improving, and these are necessary tools to ensure continued growth in revenue, businesses and jobs.”

Senate Bill SB 1155 also allows for the creation of “enterprise zones” in Shelby County as well as other areas of the state. Portions of property and or sales taxes generated by ventures within enterprise zones can be retained in the form of tax credits to help offset infrastructure costs and other start-up expenditures.

“Enterprise zones are vital in helping to replace traditional economy jobs lost through plant closings, and serve to grow knowledge-based, new economy careers in the region,” Cauthorn said. “Every tax credit invested today yields nearly incalculable returns tomorrow by planting new businesses, expanding existing ventures and putting people to work.”

Also included in the bill is a provision allowing community colleges to enter into workforce training agreements with employers who have retained jobs in a stable industry.

“These partnerships strengthen the link between private enterprise and our educational facilities,” Cauthorn said. “College enrollment increases and workforce preparedness increases – it’s a win-win condition.”

Senate Bill 1155 also establishes the “Jobs Now” program, which is based on the issuance of special infrastructure bonds, with proceeds from the sale of the bonds funding loans to local governments and other entities for use in building roads, sewers, water lines and the like.

“Jobs Now has the power to finance millions in construction projects across Missouri over the next decade,” Cauthorn said. “Once built, these types of projects can help lure in added industry, commerce and research ventures. And, for immediate effect, they also employ a heck of a lot of people in the construction and construction-related trades while the projects are being built.”

Cauthorn notes that in all, dozens of measures passed in the General Assembly this year will serve to boost economic development and in turn improve the quality of life for all Missourians.

“State legislators this year correctly read the signs of economic recovery and worked on positive ways in which to boost the fiscal future,” Cauthorn said. “At the same time, the executive branch chose to spend the session refusing to recognize that revenues were increasing without any tax hikes. Luckily, a clear majority recognize and embrace the fact that job growth, not taxation growth, is the catalyst to economic growth.”

###