



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Sen. Barnitz Announces Planned Move for Rolla Mapping Center Has Been Put On Hold

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Frank A. Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, was pleased to announce today that the U.S. Geological Survey center in Rolla will not at this point be moved to Denver, Colorado. The plan was put on hold today at the request of U.S. Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Mark Limbaugh.

“This is wonderful news,” Barnitz said. “I cannot express how grateful I am that this plan has been put on hold.”

Employees at the Mid-Continent Mapping Center were stunned to learn of a planned move announced earlier this year. The relocation would have meant a loss of at least 185 jobs and \$13.75 million in wages for the Rolla community.

Federal officials had planned a consolidation of four U.S. mapping centers to the National Geospatial Technical Operations Center at the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado. Assistant Secretary Limbaugh ordered the hold and a review of the decision process due to questions raised about the planned relocation. No further actions will be taken at this time to implement the relocation.

“Federal officials are clearly responding to the overwhelming outcry that has been waged by and on behalf of the hardworking people of Rolla,” Barnitz said.

A petition being circulated by the Meramec Regional Planning Commission at the request of U.S. Sens. Christopher “Kit” Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Rep. Joan Emerson is currently working to keep the center in Rolla permanently.

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