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Sen. Cauthorn's Hazardous Waste Bill Signed by Governor

Legislation Keeps Jobs in Northeast Missouri, Cleans Tire Dumps

JEFFERSON CITY, MO - Tire dumps throughout Missouri will be cleaned and northeast Missouri will keep a major employer under legislation signed today by Governor Matt Blunt. Senate Bill 225, sponsored by Sen. John Cauthorn (R-Mexico), restructures the state's hazardous waste fees.

"This benefits of this bill are two-fold," said Cauthorn. "First, DNR will have the resources to clean tire dumps and will be accountable. Second, we will protect jobs in the state by ensuring Missouri employers pay their fair share in the hazardous waste fund – nothing more, nothing less."

Previously, Continental Cement Company of Hannibal paid a dramatically disproportionate share of the Department of Natural Resources' Hazardous Waste Fund. Senate Bill 225 provides in-state generators pay their fair share into the fund. Continental alone will save approximately \$1.2 million per year under the new legislation.

The bill distributes taxes associated for waste generators and processors more equitably. Companies should be more competitive with neighboring states with a new flat tax for generators. Further, out-of-state generators will see greater opportunities in Missouri with streamlined reporting and a simpler tax structure.

"The new fee structure is job friendly and environment friendly," said Cauthorn. "Industries like Continental, with tremendous human resources willing to work hard, now have the financial reason to stay in Missouri, while DNR gains the resources they need to provide their services."

Currently more than 100 illegal tire dumps exist containing 1.5 million tires throughout the state. The Department of Natural Resources is accepting bids to clean the sites. Funding for waste tire cleanups is available in the legislation and criteria have been established for DNR to be held accountable. Missouri vendors bidding on the

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clean up of these tires will be given preference during the contract process.

“Tire dumps need to be cleaned,” said Cauthorn. “They are environmentally threatening, provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes to spread disease, and can cause devastating fires like those in southwest Missouri.”

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri’s 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6850. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.

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