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Senator Dan Clemens Named Chairman of Agriculture Committee

JEFFERSON CITY—Sen. Dan Clemens, R-Marshfield, today was appointed as the chairman of the Missouri Senate’s important Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources committee. Clemens’ continual dedication to traditional agriculture and technology-driven agribusiness inspired Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons to name Clemens to the position.

“I am very grateful that Sen. Gibbons thinks my experience is valuable for a leadership position such as this, and I am ready to take on the challenges of this opportunity,” said Clemens, a fifth generation farmer operating 500 acres in Marshfield, Mo. “This is an honor that I am proud to take on and run with.”

Clemens’ duties as chairman will entail guiding the bi-partisan, 9-member Senate committee as it reviews and improves legislation aimed at positively shaping Missouri’s agricultural production and natural resource conservation policies. The panel will also be responsible for the state parks system.

“My goal as Agriculture Chairman will be to protect the agricultural community we currently have, make improvements to those areas that need them and expand opportunities for production in local and global markets,” Clemens said. “One of the main priorities I have will be promoting opportunities for the return of generation-to-generation family farms and encouraging younger Missourians to remain in the agriculture business.”

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Page 2

Clemens Chairmanship

He also plans to focus on developing niche markets such as specialty fisheries, biomass energy production and agri-tourism, implementing a food-security system to protect Missouri citizens from any possible agri-terror risks and creating an environment in which all agricultural organizations can find common ground on pertinent issues.

Sen. Clemens will also be serving as a member of the committees on Small Business, Insurance and Industrial Relations and Aging, Families, Mental and Public Health.

The First Regular Session of the 93rd General Assembly convened at noon yesterday, Jan. 5, and adjourns on May 13.

For more information or to receive a print-quality picture of Sen. Clemens, please contact Gus Wagner at (573) 751-4008 or gwagner@senate.state.mo.us.