



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Senator Chuck Gross Invites Public Testimony in the State Budget Process**

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. Chuck Gross, R-St. Charles, announced yesterday that the Senate Appropriations committee will be hearing public testimony on the state’s budget bills.

Until now, the public did not have the opportunity to formally present their views on the state’s spending process.

“This marks a definite change in the way we have received public input,” said Gross, who is chairman of the Appropriations committee. “All other bills go through a public hearing process that allows for direct citizen input. For some reason that has not been the case with spending bills. We’re changing that this year.”

The Appropriations committee will conduct public hearings for all 12 department budgets beginning Jan. 18. A complete schedule is available online at [www.senate.mo.gov/05info/hrings.htm](http://www.senate.mo.gov/05info/hrings.htm). If interested in participating or for further information, e-mail [public.testimony@senate.mo.gov](mailto:public.testimony@senate.mo.gov) or call 1-866-274-8748.

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