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John Griesheimer
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For Immediate Release:
Dec. 2, 2005

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Sen. John Griesheimer to Introduce Bill Protecting Consumers from Excessive Emissions Regulations

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, today pre-filed a bill for the 2006 legislative session to make emissions regulations in the St. Louis metropolitan area more consumer-friendly. The legislation will make testing more convenient for drivers and reform testing requirements for older vehicles.

“I have fought for years to reform Missouri emissions regulations because they are a nightmare for consumers,” Griesheimer said. “This legislation will implement common-sense changes to make testing easier for Missourians who can’t afford expensive repairs.”

Griesheimer’s legislation, co-sponsored by Sen. Bill Alter, R-High Ridge, decentralizes the current emissions-testing program to make the process easier and more convenient for consumers. In place of the handful of specialized emissions testing stations throughout the metro area, safety inspectors and other motor vehicle repair workers will be able to perform emissions tests once they pass an emissions system repair certification program. Certification guidelines are to be developed by the Air Conservation Commission.

The legislation will also loosen restrictions on Missouri motorists. Vehicles manufactured before 1996 will be exempt from emissions inspections and will only be required to undergo a gas cap pressure test, which will be included in their safety inspection. New vehicles will not be required to undergo an emissions test for four years after being purchased. Also, individuals who qualify as low-mileage drivers, those who drive less than 6,000 miles per year, will not be required to undergo emissions testing.

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The legislation also has a provision expanding monetary credits for emissions-related work performed by the vehicle owner.

“I have worked with the Department of Natural Resources to construct a plan that makes the emissions-testing process easier on consumers but still maintains environmentally friendly regulations,” Griesheimer said. “I am looking forward to the coming legislative session so we can pass this important measure.”

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