

STATE SENATOR

Matt Bartle

8th District



PROTECTING HUNTING AND FISHING IN MISSOURI

Missouri is renowned for its excellent outdoor opportunities. Whether hunting in our magnificent fields and forests or fishing in our bountiful rivers, lakes and streams, Missouri has much to offer. Several bills pending in the Missouri Senate would modify state hunting and fishing laws to improve access for all who wish to experience the Missouri outdoors.

Senate Joint Resolution 40: Preserving the Right to Hunt and Fish

I am sponsoring a resolution this session providing constitutional protection to hunt and fish in Missouri. In spite of many people's efforts to discourage landowners from offering their property for use by people who hunt and fish, I want to emphasize the importance of outdoor sports to Missouri's heritage and economic success.

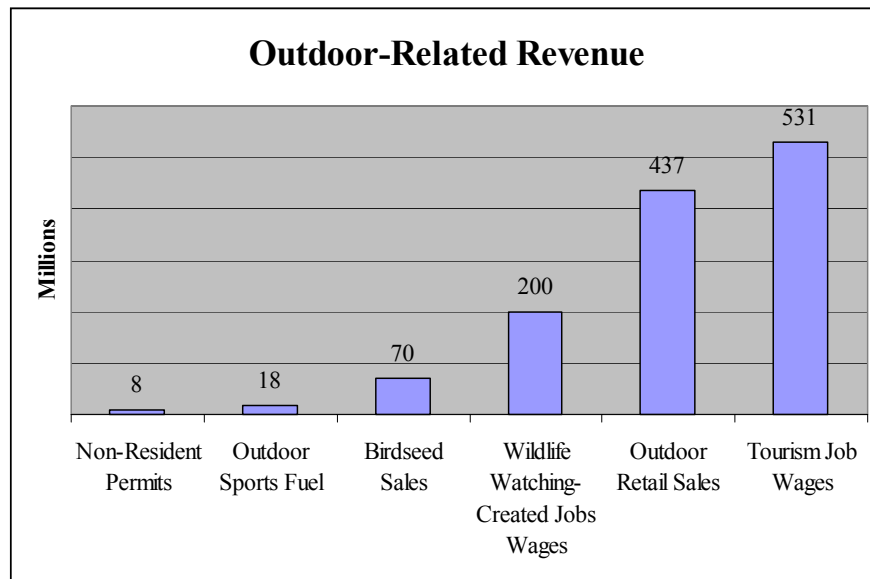
Hunting and fishing are inherent pieces of our state's natural heritage and are a boon to Missouri's economy. SJR 40 states the "opportunity to harvest wild bird, fish, and game is a heritage that shall forever be preserved to the individual citizens of the state."

Between 1980

and 2003, sales of non-resident spring turkey-hunting permits grew by 500 percent. Sales of deer-hunting permits increased 300 percent. Non-resident permits bring in more than \$8 million per year for state revenue, not including the overall impact on our economy.

Outdoor tourists rent hotel rooms, eat at restaurants, buy gasoline, shop for supplies and visit other major attractions. And all of these services mean jobs for Missourians.

These factors show how much Missouri benefits from its outdoor offerings. My resolution works to ensure that the rights making these benefits possible are never eroded.



**Senator
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More Rights-Assuring Legislation for 2006

Eminent Domain Legislation:

As sportsmen we understand and cherish private property rights. Whether it is a family farmstead passed down for generations or a favorite hunting spot, the ability to own and enjoy private property is a fundamental principle.

This important right was threatened last year when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the government's power of eminent domain can be used to take land from a private citizen and given to another simply because a more profitable use can be found for it.

I am committed to passing legislation this session to ensure that the rights of private landowners are protected. We cannot sit idly by and watch this important right be destroyed.



SB 684: Military personnel on leave can fish without permits:

Many Missouri men and women serving in the armed services are unable to use their fishing permits due to their military obligations.

Legislation filed this session allows Missouri military personnel on authorized leave to be exempt from paying for fishing permits issued by the Department of Conservation.



Sen. Bartle with his children and their family dog.

SB 665: Increases penalties for poaching:

Poaching has long been a problem in Missouri and other states with large populations of game. Those who illegally take game steal from ethical sportsmen who abide by the law. And those who trespass infringe on private property rights.

This legislation implements stronger penalties against those who hunt illegally while trespassing on private property. SB 665 also increases penalties against anyone taking a deer with the intent to sell it illegally.

State Senator Matt Bartle

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