



THE LOUDON TIMES

Senator John Loudon
Senate District 7

Capitol Building, Room 422
Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Contact: Nick Bengston
(573) 751-9763

Working to Reduce Dependency on Oil

Senators this week approved legislation helping Missouri motorists and implementing stricter laws on illegal immigration.

House Bill 1270 requires all gasoline sold in Missouri to contain a 10 percent ethanol blend beginning Jan. 1, 2008. The renewable-fuel standard will mean relief at the pump for Missouri motorists, less dependence on foreign oil, new markets for Missouri farmers and cleaner burning gasoline.

Ethanol is a clean-burning, renewable product made from fermented agricultural products, such as corn. All motor vehicles manufactured since the 1970s can run on a 10 percent ethanol blend, or E10. To ensure HB 1270 does not cost taxpayers more at the pump, any time the price of ethanol is higher than gasoline, the 10 percent ethanol standard will be suspended.

This new ethanol standard will provide innumerable benefits for Missourians and the environment. Ethanol is cheaper than unleaded gasoline, so the 10 percent standard should provide some relief to Missouri drivers. Meanwhile, by fueling our vehicles with ethanol produced from American corn and refined right here in Missouri's ethanol plants, we can reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

The new demand for ethanol also will benefit Missouri farmers. By opening new markets for Missouri's hardworking farm families, the ethanol standard will add value to Missouri's corn harvest. The ethanol standard also will make for cleaner burning gasoline. Ethanol contains oxygen, which results in decreased tailpipe emissions and fewer greenhouse gases in our environment.

HB 1270 is a win-win for Missouri. By supporting Missouri consumers, agriculture and the environment, this legislation will prove a success.



Senator Loudon with a group of students from St. Monica School.

Illegal Immigration

Legislation strengthening Missouri's laws on illegal immigration also was approved in the Senate. Senate Bill 1250 requires members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to receive training on federal immigration laws from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The legislation also allows police officers in Missouri to apprehend illegal immigrants and transfer them to federal immigration officials. Also under the measure, illegal immigrants are prohibited from attending public colleges and universities in Missouri.

We cannot keep rewarding people who have come here illegally with access to jobs, health care and public education. The time has come to crack down on illegal immigration to save taxpayer dollars and keep jobs available to Americans, and we have given law enforcement personnel the tools they need to help put a stop to the problem.

If you have questions or comments about these issues or any other topic, please call my Capitol office at (573) 751-9763. Thank you for your support.

Quote of the Week

“Liberty is to the collective body what health is to every individual body. Without health, no pleasure can be tasted by man; without liberty, no happiness can be enjoyed by society.”

Thomas Jefferson