

# Report from the Missouri Senate

## *A weekly report from Senator David G. Klindt*

The Missouri General Assembly re-convened this week with a clear mission – to continue building a solid foundation for a better future. I know you’re counting on us to succeed, and not just for today, but for the sake of future generations. We should strive to do no less.

Senator Michael Gibbons, the President Pro-Tem of the Missouri Senate, properly reminded us this week of the history we made last year:

- We dedicated more money than ever to education and are distributing that money according a new, more equitable formula.
- We made it much more difficult for meth producers to get their hands on the ingredients they need to endanger our children. Already, meth production in Missouri has been cut in half. To me, this means fewer lives are being lost.
- Gov. Matt Blunt’s Quality Jobs Act is already convincing companies to locate in or expand their operations in Missouri. Unemployment is down and more than 38,000 new jobs were created last year alone. The Chrysler Group has announced an unprecedented investment of \$1 billion in Missouri.
- The important changes we enacted last year to make Missouri more job-friendly have resulted in a growing economy. This means we should be able to provide for the needs of Missourians without a tax increase.

Even on the heels of so much history, there is more to do. Here are my top priorities for 2006:

1. **Repealing the sales tax on farm diesel.** With the price of diesel fuel going up, paying this tax puts an unnecessary burden on farmers. This burden hit especially hard during last year’s harvest season, when diesel fuel prices peaked at the worst possible time for farmers. The amount of money the state collects from this tax is small – just \$160,000 – yet the repeal will keep more money in the pockets of hard-working farmers.
2. **A long-term energy program.** We need our energy to be clean and plentiful. I’ve been appointed to serve on the Missouri Energy Task Force created by the governor. The idea of moving away from fossil fuels toward a brighter future of renewable energy sources is something I’ve worked on for years. I’m proud Gov. Blunt sees this issue as a priority and I look forward to continuing my work on this issue.
3. **Eminent domain reform.** We must do everything we can to protect the private property rights of Missourians. The process of letting governments, big or small, take away the private property of Missourians and give it to private developers to build a Wal-Mart or other commercial development must stop. Eminent domain,

when properly used, is for things like schools, roads and bridges. It must never be abused.

4. **Medicaid reform.** My principle interest here is to make sure our new Medicaid system will work well in rural Missouri. Maintaining access to quality health care is a tough challenge in rural areas and it's a challenge we **MUST** meet.

Our mission is clear, our resolve is great, and our commitment is strong. After all, there's more history to be made.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul G. Sticht". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".