

Report from Senator David G. Klindt

February 2, 2006

Victories to Celebrate

Northwest Missouri in general and farmers in particular have won some battles in Jefferson City that are worth noting. And it has been my honor to represent your interests in each one. So let's celebrate together.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee this week voted one of my priority bills, SB 744, out of committee without a single opposing vote. I deeply appreciate this bipartisan show of support for Missouri farmers. SB 744 removes the sales tax from fuel used exclusively on the farm. If we can pass this bill, it'll let every farmer keep more money at home, for the benefit of his family and farming operation, instead of sending it to Jefferson City.

In another decision that will more immediately impact the bottom line on the farm, the State Tax Commission, at my urging, recommended no increase in farm productivity values this year. This will save property tax money. I applaud the Tax Commission's decision. The Commission was under heavy pressure from urban interests to increase farm productivity values, relying on the calculations of a university professor using a broken, outdated formula. With the help of the Missouri Farm Bureau, we were able to step in and stop the Commission from doing the wrong thing.

We're also celebrating a victory this week over some wrong-headed thinking at the Missouri Department of Transportation. Through a badly flawed bidding process, MoDOT was on the verge of awarding contracts for the cleaning and maintenance of 15 of our 19 rest areas to a single sheltered workshop in Carthage. This would have meant, for example, that the management responsible for the rest stop at Mound City would be located in Carthage – 237 miles away! Fortunately, we were able to convince MoDOT to see the error of their ways and put a stop to it. Our local sheltered workshops are a tremendous asset, and we need to be supportive of them.

During a ceremony in Governor Matt Blunt's office this week, Missouri based developer Wind Capital Group, John Deere Wind Energy and the Missouri Rural Electric Cooperatives announced their plans to construct a 50-megawatt wind energy project in King City, 30 miles northeast of St. Joseph. This is a great project for Northwest Missouri that will benefit rural counties, schools and farmers while at the same time proving the value of an untapped, renewable energy resource for the state of Missouri. I'm excited to be part of this pioneer project.

On the Senate floor this week, we passed a bill providing additional resources to law enforcement. Specifically, the measure will beef up Missouri's DNA profiling system, which requires the state to keep DNA samples of all felony offenders. The database can

then be matched to DNA samples recovered at crime scenes – leading to quicker arrests.
The Measure now moves on to the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Lindt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "L".