

Report from Senator David G. Klindt

March 2, 2006

Cold feet? What cold feet?

It was nice and warm in Jefferson City this week. Even so, some members of the Senate got cold feet on a measure we approved last week – ending the required safety inspections on motor vehicles. So they reconsidered the vote and changed their minds.

I was dismayed by this. After all, getting rid of the safety inspections is a good idea. And I was always taught that a person should never get cold feet about doing the right thing.

So I drafted a new amendment canceling the safety inspection program at the end of this year, while maintaining our inspections of school buses. During a spirited debate on the floor of the Senate, I learned the real reason why the folks in the St. Louis-area are demanding to keep the safety inspection program in place. It'll make it easier for them to satisfy their emissions inspections required by the federal government!

This made me even more determined to do away with it. Why should the good people in the rest of Missouri be forced to schlep their cars around for inspections every two years just to make things easier in St. Louis?

The Senate approved my amendment on a vote of 15-14. It's attached to a bill revising the emissions testing program and is currently in the House. As a backup plan, I also filed this week a bill to bring the safety inspection program to a close. In my office, we have a new motto: cold feet? What cold feet?

Also this week, the Senate passed and sent to the House my bill allowing towns of 500 or fewer people elect their alderman at-large instead of by wards. This will help our rural communities find good people to serve. My bill requiring used car dealers who are just starting out to take a training course on state and federal laws also passed the Senate this week. The end result should be fewer complaints about missing titles, incorrect paperwork, and so forth. Car dealers already doing business are exempt.

The Senate Committee on Commerce, Energy and the Environment, which I chair, this week approved a bill cracking down on people illegally selling the cell phone records of other people. It's an invasion of privacy and cannot be tolerated. The same bill also adds cell phones and fax numbers to the state's "Do Not Call" list.

The Senate also this week passed a bill that will move the state's utilities in the direction of using more renewable power sources, such as wind, solar, and biomass. And we passed a measure increasing the penalties for those who violate our "move over" laws designed to protect our state troopers and other emergency workers. When you see an emergency vehicle or a trooper alongside the road, the law requires you to slow down and move over. It makes life safer for everyone.

