

# THE GREEN WIRE

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## **Blunt's Outsourcing of Official Mailings Increases Junk Mail**

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – It was recently reported in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* that the Missouri Department of Revenue has contracted with the Boston-based firm named Imagitas Inc. to print and mail Missouri vehicle registration notices. Imagitas is providing the printing for free to sell and insert commercial advertisements in the packets.

Sen. Timothy Green (D-Spanish Lake) and Rep. Bruce Darrough (D-Florissant) have heard from several angry constituents in recent weeks since the outsourcing was announced on June 28.

“According to DOR this corporate out-sourcing is being done to ‘save the taxpayers money’ said Sen. Green. “Florida motorists are suing Imagitas for placing advertising inside automobile registration packets mailed to more than 2 million Florida car owners.”

DOR is in fact selling the contact information of Missouri residents to an east coast advertising corporation so they can send unsolicited junk mail along with official license renewal notices. Use of motorists' names and addresses for commercial purposes is a violation of the federal Driver's Privacy and Protection Act. It was passed after the 1989 murder of TV actress Rebecca Schaeffer, whose stalker was able to track her down using motor vehicle records

“This is an invasion of Missourians’ privacy by the DOR. Missourians should have a right to decline receiving this junk mail,” said Rep. Darrough. “My constituents already receive an annoyingly large amount of junk mail from credit card and auto insurance companies and this just adds to this growing amount of useless mail.”

“It is not right for the Governor Blunt’s DOR to sell the contact information of private citizens to any private business,” said Sen. Green. “Receiving commercial advertising ranging from Ford trucks to Geico auto insurance in an official mailer is not appropriate.”

According to the *Kansas City Star* motor vehicle owners who received their registration renewal notices in the mail so far this summer also found an advertising flier for satellite radio and TV deals. More ads are in the works.

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