



*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

*Free and fair discussion
is the firmest friend of truth.*

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sen. Gibbons Introduces Bill to Keep Radioactive Waste off Missouri's Highways

New Fees on Nuclear Waste Will Make Missouri Lesser Likely Route

JEFFERSON CITY, MO. – Trying to keep nuclear waste from traveling on Missouri's highways and rail system, Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, introduced a bill that creates a fee to be charged for all trucks or trains carrying radioactive waste through the state. Missouri's surrounding states, including Iowa, charge similar fees for nuclear waste shipments on their highways.

Gibbons says because Missouri currently charges no fees, routes through Missouri are being used even though they may be less safe than other routes in order for shippers to save money.

"Without a fee structure in Missouri, we will see more and more radioactive waste travel through our state," Gibbons said. "This bill will eliminate the incentive for shippers to transport dangerous nuclear waste through our communities and countryside."

The measure, Senate Bill 976, requires all fees collected under the proposal to be deposited into the Environmental Radiation Monitoring Fund. Money from the fund will be used to pay for highway patrol escorts of waste shipments, conducting of statewide radiation monitoring, and training for state and local emergency responders should an accident involving a radioactive shipment occur.

"Moreover, these fees will make sure our emergency responders are fully prepared to deal with any problems," Gibbons said. "Missouri should not be the 'Gateway to the West' for nuclear waste dumpsites and these fees are the first step in making sure that doesn't happen."

The Department of Energy has mandated that by 2010, all repositories for nuclear waste be moved to Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The Department has also designated Interstate-70 and Interstate-80 as preferred routes. The fees proposed in SB 976 are similar to Iowa's rates; \$1800 for each cask shipped by truck, plus a \$25 surcharge per mile over 200 miles traveled in Missouri. Rail shipments would be charged \$1300, with \$125 surcharge for each additional cask.

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