

# NEWS RELEASE

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**State Rep. Wes Shoemyer**

**State Sen. Frank Barnitz**



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## **Shoemyer, Barnitz urge Missourians to voice opposition to \$50 million stadium giveaway**

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – State Rep. Wes Shoemyer and state Sen. Frank Barnitz on Monday urged Missourians to contact members of the Missouri Development Finance Board to register their opposition to giving the owners of the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals \$50 million in tax breaks for renovations of their stadiums.

The board is expected to approve the tax breaks on Thursday. No public hearings were held on the plan in advance of the scheduled vote. Republican Gov. Matt Blunt proposed the tax giveaway in December as a way to circumvent the Missouri General Assembly, which in the past had rejected legislation to funnel taxpayer money to the Kansas City stadium projects.

“The elected representatives of the people should make this decision, not an appointed board that isn’t accountable to voters,” said Shoemyer, D-Clarence. “At a time when the state has cut health care funding and is shortchanging public schools, this \$50 million giveaway to wealthy professional sports tycoons is another example of the Blunt administration’s misplaced priorities.”

Given the lack of public debate on the issue, Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, said it is important for Missourians to make their opinions known to the board.

“My constituents overwhelmingly oppose tax breaks for stadiums,” Barnitz said. “With their elected representatives shut out of the process, it is vital for them to tell the Blunt administration what they think of this poorly conceived plan.”

Most of the MDFB members can be contacted through the board’s Jefferson City headquarters at (573) 751-8479. Those members are Troy Wilson of Sikeston, Paul Lindsey of Lebanon, Louis Eckelkamp of Washington, John Starr of Kansas City, Nelson Grumney of St. Louis, Larry Neff of Neosho, Richard Wilson of Jefferson City, James Hill of St. Louis and Elizabeth Solberg of Kansas City.

The remaining board members and their contact numbers are Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder, (573) 751-4727; Department of Agriculture Director Fred Ferrell, (573) 751-3359; and Department of Economic Development Director Gregory Steinhoff, (573) 751-4962.

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