



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz  
16<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 425  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**For Immediate Release:**  
**Aug. 17, 2006**

**Contact: Tony Benz**  
**(573) 751-2108**

# Sen. Frank Barnitz says “No” to Mandatory Animal ID

---

JEFFERSON CITY – State Sen. Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, today announced that he opposes federal efforts to implement a mandatory animal-identification program for livestock. Federal officials have reserved the right to mandate the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) if participation rates are not high enough.

“Mandatory animal ID is a bad idea because it invades the privacy of small-scale animal producers and increases their expenses,” Barnitz said. “Furthermore, the 19 species of animals, including aquaculture horses and cervids of all types, is not practical. It is also irresponsible for government to pass the expenses on to individual producers at a time when it is getting more and more difficult for family farmers and ranchers just to get by.”

Sen. Barnitz this year took a leading role in working to keep NAIS from becoming a mandatory program. Barnitz co-sponsored Senate Concurrent Resolution 31, which urges the federal government not to make the identification program mandatory for American farmers and ranchers.

Mandatory animal ID poses a threat to traditional freedoms. Proposed standards would require anyone who owns at least one horse, cow, pig, chicken or sheep to register with the government. Livestock kept for slaughter, breeding or sale would require identification beyond ear tags or tattoos, likely a radio-frequency device, and the movement or death of the animals would have to be reported. Livestock owners who fail to follow these procedures would be subject to penalties.

“Many of the proposals for mandatory identification sound a lot like Big Brother to me,” Barnitz said. “Aside from that concern, these proposals simply won’t work for every family farmer and/or rancher in Missouri or the United States in general.”

###