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PRESS RELEASE

Sen. Cauthorn's "Cleaning the Air" Tour Promotes Emerging Technologies for Family Farms

Special Committee Chairman Advocates New, Innovative Ideas

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Missouri entrepreneurs may soon end the debate over animal agriculture facilities, ensuring productive farms and cleaner air. Sen. John Cauthorn discussed emerging technologies during his "Cleaning the Air" tour, touting 21st century technology for 21st century family farms.

Innoventor, Inc., H2AG and University of Missouri livestock nutrition professor Dr. Monty Kerley joined Cauthorn on a three-stop tour through northeast Missouri.

"Innovations and technology are the bridge that will unite folks on animal agriculture facilities," said Cauthorn. "There are some negative emotions out there now, and animal agriculture is on the chopping block, but the entrepreneurial spirit can solve our problems and save our farms."

Missouri-based Innoventor is working on a two-step process to improve hog farms. First, their patented air scrubber removes 80 percent of odor emissions from animal confinements according to an Iowa State University. Second, a closed-loop swine waste to crude oil system creates new energy sources.

"Cleaning the air is key in ensuring farming operations are good neighbors," said Cauthorn. "Turning waste into crude oil helps our energy supply and returns the investment for the farmer improving his facility."

H2AG, based in Taylor, is a small company focused on providing value-added products and services to agriculture. The primary product, Adsorb PlusT, addresses the issue of odor abatement and provides a new approach to the health and well being of livestock. H2AG is focused on offering US animal agriculture the opportunity to use a product producing positive results in Europe for over 40 years.

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“The ability to end odor issues, having technology catch-up with the farming, is happening right here in northeast Missouri,” said Cauthorn.

Recently the Senate and House Agriculture Committee chairmen joined Cauthorn in not filing confined animal feeding operation legislation this year. This good-faith effort was for a “cooling down” period for both sides.

“Family farm operations are an emotional issue – both for the farmers who want to stay in business, and for the neighbors of those operations,” said Cauthorn. “I think both sides need to step back, take a breath, and let these technologies that are on the verge of great things close the gap.”

On Monday, Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons formed a special senate committee on Fuel, Waste and the Environment, naming Cauthorn chairman. The committee is charged with the task of conducting hearings for the purpose of exploring the feasibility and effectiveness of fueling innovative animal and human waste management practices to create energy, protect Missouri's environment, solve odor issues, and sustain rural economic development.

The committee will issue to the Senate a report of findings and proposed recommendation of actions to address this issue. Hearings will begin later this month.

Sen. Cauthorn represents Missouri's 18th Senate District. He can be reached at his capitol office at (573) 751-6858. You can also visit his web page by going to www.senate.mo.gov/cauthorn.

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