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PRESS RELEASE

Northeast Missouri Educational Institutions Benefit in Senate MOHELA Plan

Cauthorn Fights for Truman State, Greenley Research Center, Hannibal Campus Project

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Sen. John Cauthorn, R-Mexico, reports two educational facilities in northeast Missouri are included in the Senate's plan for investing proceeds from the partial privatization of the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA), and said a third facility in the region also has the opportunity to benefit from the plan.

Introduced yesterday, Senate Bill 1256 establishes healthcare-related scholarships, boosts local health center funding and increases funding for capital improvement projects on campuses across the state. Slated for inclusion in the plan's capital improvements segment are:

- Truman State University, with a proposed \$21.8 million for renovation of the Pershing Building.
- Greenley Research Center, with a \$2 million earmark for the construction of a Learning and Discovery Park.
- The Hannibal campus of Moberly Area Community College, which can contend for a portion of the \$18 million appropriation slated for community colleges.

"Having two projects included in the Senate MOHELA plan, and the potential funding for one more, is exciting news," said Cauthorn. "Our plan has a bold vision of improving Missouri's higher education institutions to provide students with a top-notch education."

Truman State University was included in Governor Blunt's Lewis and Clark Discovery Initiative. Cauthorn worked with GRC leaders to include them in the Senate plan.

"Discovery and innovation takes place daily at the Greenley Research Center," said Cauthorn. "Their work on transgenic plants, pharmaceutical rice and other life science discoveries can grow and prosper under this plan."

GRC is seeking \$2.4 million for the new Learning and Discovery Park building. Cauthorn is trying to secure \$2.0 million in state funds while GRC will pursue the remaining in matching funds.

“Greenley Research Center has been a tremendous asset to our agriculture community. As the looks to the future of research in our state, we should invest in those that have plugged away and produced results,” said Cauthorn.

GRC’s Learning and Discovery Park aims to be a state-of-the-art facility for field testing of value-added transgenic materials for Missouri farmers. Storing and isolating seeds, along with meeting safety and regulatory issues, can be handled in the new facility.

“Since the early 1990s Greenley has wanted a technology and research environment like this proposal,” said Cauthorn. “Well, today is here. We can either bring this learning center home to Knox County – or we can watch a great opportunity ride past us. I’m not one to wait and watch”

The Greenley Center was established when Hortense Greenley donated the 700-acre farm to the University of Missouri in memory of her father. The major objective of the center is to evaluate efficient, profitable crop production in northern Missouri while emphasizing soil conservation, water quality and energy efficiency.

Researchers study the benefits of reduced tillage, alternative-cropping practices, the effects of new technology and products, variety testing, soil fertility and beef cattle backgrounding. Studies on water quality and the environmental impact of crop production are being implemented.

Cauthorn joined Truman State University officials, faculty and students in late January announcing a funding plan to build a \$24.7 million construction project on the Truman University campus in Kirksville. The project renovates and expands the Pershing Building for nursing, communication disorders, health science, and exercise science programs.

“Now I will guard these dollars like a hawk as this bill moves through the process,” said Cauthorn.

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.