



## MISSOURI SENATE

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# Senate-Approved Ethanol Standard Benefits All Missourians

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JEFFERSON CITY — Senators this week approved House legislation that will offer a number of benefits to Missouri consumers and farm families. House Bill 1270 requires all gasoline sold in Missouri to contain at least a 10 percent ethanol blend. The renewable-fuel standard will mean relief at the pump for Missouri motorists, less dependence on foreign oil, cleaner burning gasoline and new markets for Missouri farmers.

HB 1270 requires all gasoline sold in Missouri to contain a 10 percent ethanol blend beginning Jan. 1, 2008. Ethanol is a clean-burning, renewable product made from fermented agricultural products, such as corn. All motor vehicles manufactured since the 1970s can run on a 10 percent ethanol blend. To ensure HB 1270 does not cost taxpayers more at the pump, any time the price of ethanol is higher than the cost of gasoline, the 10 percent ethanol standard will be suspended.

This new ethanol standard will provide innumerable benefits for Missourians and the environment. Ethanol is cheaper than unleaded gasoline, so the 10 percent standard should provide some relief to Missouri drivers. Meanwhile, by fueling our vehicles with ethanol produced from American corn and refined right here in Missouri's ethanol plants, we can reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. We can stabilize our energy situation by avoiding the chaotic international oil market in favor of energy produced by Missourians.

That brings me to another reason why this legislation is such a win-win for our state — the new demand for ethanol will be a boon for Missouri farmers. By opening new markets for Missouri’s hardworking farm families, the ethanol standard will add value to Missouri’s corn harvest.

Finally, the ethanol blend will make for cleaner burning gasoline. Ethanol contains oxygen, which results in decreased tailpipe emissions and fewer greenhouse gases in our environment. As a result, our automobile emissions are less harmful to the world around us.

For all of these reasons, HB 1270 is a slam dunk for the state of Missouri. When we can simultaneously support Missouri consumers, farmers and the environment, we have hit on a fine piece of legislation.

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*Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid,  
Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.*