



# State Senator Harry Kennedy

Room 226 - State Capitol - Jefferson City, MO - Phone 573 - 751 - 2126

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## Missouri Tourism Industry: 'You're Cleared for Landing'

### *Sen. Kennedy Works to Add Direct Missouri-Europe Air Corridor*

Missouri State Senator Harry Kennedy (District 1) has filed a bill setting the stage for the state's tourism industry to take advantage of international trade negotiations currently being engaged between the United States federal government and the European Union.

The "Open Skies" trade negotiations as it is called could open all airports and flight routes between European cities and American destinations. This complete deregulation of the current route assignments could be a watershed for the Missouri tourism industry.

Senator Kennedy's legislation (Senate Bill 602) exempts the sales tax charged on aviation fuel purchased if the flight is "transoceanic." That means, it must directly connect to a point across the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean. Currently no Missouri airport has direct flights to Europe.

According to the Missouri Department of Tourism’s website, domestic travelers to Missouri spent an estimated \$6.3 billion while visiting the state during fiscal year 2005. While figures aren’t currently available for the potential impact of opening a direct international flight in Missouri, the Denver International Airport commissioned a study that indicated *just one* additional daily flight from Europe had an annual economic impact of \$90,577,704. (The study, *Economic Impact of International Flights on Denver’s Economy* is available online at: <http://www.metrodenver.org/documents/Economic%20Impact%20of%20Intl%20Flights.pdf> )

“As the Denver study clearly illustrates, the value and impact of a single international flight is considerable and far-reaching,” Senator Kennedy said. “My goal is to bring that economic reach and scope to Missouri.”

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***Senator Harry Kennedy can be contacted at the State Capitol – Phone: 573-751-2126.***