MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

Kevin Engler
3rd Senate District

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Sen. Kevin Engler's Bill to Protect Missourians 2nd Amendment Rights Approved by Senate

JEFFERSON CITY— As many law-abiding New Orleans firearm owners discovered in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, when disaster strikes, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms can be cast aside in the name of "public safety".

Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, today announced the Missouri Senate has approved his measure allowing Missourians to properly protect themselves and their property during disasters. Senate Bill 257 prohibits government agencies from restricting the lawful possession of firearms during state emergencies. A final Senate vote will send the legislation on to the House.

"Natural disasters and emergencies are often the times when Missourians most need protection — and when law-enforcement officials are most overburdened," Engler said. "Senate Bill 257 ensures Missourians will be able to protect themselves."

After Hurricane Katrina, many of the residents of New Orleans legally armed themselves to protect their lives and property from the surrounding chaos. With no way to call for help, and police unable to respond, honest citizens were left to defend themselves and their neighbors against looters, thieves and other criminals. However, just when these people needed guns the most, New Orleans's Police Superintendent ordered the confiscation of firearms, allegedly under a state emergency powers law.

Under SB 257, also known as the Missouri Disaster Recovery Protection Act, state and local governments cannot prohibit or restrict the lawful possession, transfer, sale, transportation, storage, display, or use of firearms or ammunition during emergencies.

"The chaos and confusion of a widespread emergency is no reason for our government to put Second Amendment rights on hold," Engler said. "In fact, traumatic situations are precisely when our rights need to be protected."   -END-