



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Kevin Engler
3rd Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 428
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
May 18, 2007

Contact: Jarad Falk
(573) 751-3455

Senator Kevin Engler Comments on the Latest Development in Taum Sauk Reservoir Issue

JEFFERSON CITY—Residents of Reynolds and Iron counties are a step closer to seeing a resolution in the collapse of the Taum reservoir according to Sen. Kevin Engler R-Farmington. Today, Attorney General Jay Nixon announced that the state will not be filing criminal charges against Ameren UE in response to the failure of the Taum Sauk Reservoir in December of 2005.

“I would like to thank Governor Matt Blunt and Attorney General Jay Nixon for coming to the table to sit down and earnestly discuss the future of the Taum Sauk Reservoir. The next step in this process is to reach a settlement that is fair for the people of Reynolds and Iron counties. The first priority in this process should be improving the quality of life for these residents and restoring the area to the way it was before the reservoir’s failure over 17 months ago.”

-Senator Kevin Engler

Senator Engler will continue to advocate for a significant portion of a settlement to return to the affected region. In a letter written last week to Governor Blunt and Doyle Childers, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Sen. Engler strongly suggested any settlement with Ameren include specific instructions as to how the funds should be used to ensure the maximum number of people in the affected region achieve a better quality of life. They include:

- A lease of no longer than 20 years on Church Mountain.
- The inclusion of funds to construct a sewer system for the city of Lesterville. The city currently is without a sewer system, resulting in further contamination of the Black River.
- A requirement that Ameren will inexpensively lease land in the area to a wireless company to lessen the cost of a cell tower. Cellular service in the area is currently unavailable or of poor quality.
- Funds to cover the operating costs of a 911 call center so that Reynolds and Iron counties will have access to 911 service.
- In order to raise sales tax revenues, funds should be included to develop a professional marketing campaign to bring tourists back to Johnson Shut-Ins and the Black River.

###