



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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Kevin Engler
3rd Senate District

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Sen. Kevin Engler Appointed to State Tourism Commission

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Kevin Engler, R-Farmington, has been tapped by Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons to serve on the Missouri Tourism Commission. He replaces Sen. Chuck Gross, R-St. Charles, who retired from the Senate at the end of the session.

"I am proud to have the chance to serve on this vital commission," said Sen. Engler. "Tourism is an important industry in my district, as it is a major economic driver in many of the communities I represent."

Sen. Engler's district features several key areas popular with Missouri's tourists. The streams and rivers are great attractions for folks looking to float their way on crystal-clear spring waters while gazing at lush forest and the rolling Ozark Mountains. The wineries of the area are among the best in the state, featuring flavorful wines that reflect the rich culture and heritage of the region. Finally, Sen. Engler's district is known for its numerous state parks and parts of the Mark Twain National Forest that feature camping, hiking, fishing, and more.

"Sen. Engler will make an outstanding addition to the Tourism Commission," stated Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, Tourism Commission Chairman. "He has a strong commitment to grow tourism in Missouri and I look forward to working with him."

Tourism is a major economic engine for the state. A study by the University of Missouri shows that in Fiscal Year 2005, tourism was an \$13-billion-a-year industry in the state with more than 21 million households visiting Missouri that year. Missouri Tourism officials say in FY 2006, tourism generated \$382 million in state sales taxes, with even more collected on the local level. Nearly 300,000 Missourians are employed in tourism-related industries.

"This appointment will be a great chance to find ways to help this state and particularly my district make the most of the opportunities that tourism can offer," said Sen. Engler. "I look forward to serving on this commission and continuing my service to the people of the 3rd District."

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