



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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NEWS RELEASE

Sen. Kevin Engler Tells Senate Colleagues Taum Sauk Rebuild is Crucial for Local Economy

JEFFERSON CITY— As the General Assembly gathered in special session to consider a piece of economic development legislation (HB 327), Sen. Kevin Engler (R-Farmington) took the opportunity to speak on the Senate floor about the importance of rebuilding the Taum Sauk reservoir to the economy of his district.

“I find it peculiar that the governor has called us here to address the issue of economic development in our state and to ensure there are quality jobs available for Missourians”, said Engler. “But by failing to reach a settlement with Ameren regarding the Taum Sauk reservoir collapse, the governor and attorney general continued to threaten a major economic development opportunity for the people of my district.”

The reconstruction of the Taum Sauk reservoir is expected to infuse roughly half a billion dollars in the local economy and create hundreds of high-paying jobs with benefits for working families. Last week, Ameren UE received permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to rebuild the Taum Sauk reservoir, but the project remains in jeopardy as a lawsuit filed by the attorney general and liability claims raised by the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Conservation. Ameren officials have indicated both the lawsuit and liability claims must be resolved before the rebuilding can begin.

Senators from both sides of the isle joined Engler to express a desire to bring an end to the political battle between the governor and attorney general. Sen. Tim Green (D-St. Louis) even went as far as to hint he and other democrats would be willing to assist Engler in a filibuster of HB 327, if the Taum Sauk issue were not resolved.

“I pledge to continue to do everything in my power to ensure the Taum Sauk reservoir is rebuilt”, said Engler. “And thus provide employment for working men and women in my district for years to come.”

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