



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

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## Sen. Bartle Applauds Governor's Veto of Pork-laden Bill

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JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit, today commended Governor Blunt for vetoing House Bill 327. The bill started as a \$12 million program to help create jobs in the state but ballooned to a \$200 million a year plan by the year 2010.

“We cannot afford a \$200 million hit to state coffers while giving breaks that only benefit a handful of special interests,” said Sen. Bartle. “We have become drunk on tax credits and it is time to restore sobriety to Missouri's economic development policies.”

Sen. Bartle points to several particularly egregious parts of the bill. One of the most conspicuous is the Distressed Areas Land Assemblage Tax Credit. Under this proposal, a few thriving developers could redevelop land in St. Louis while being propped up with \$100 million in public money by the time the credit was scheduled to run out in 2013. Likewise, a proposed tax credit for aviation fuel for transoceanic flights could have cost regional airports in the state \$400,000 for flights that merely connected such flights in non-Missouri cities since no transoceanic flights even originate in the Show-Me State.

HB 327 also offered a tax credit of a dime per pound to the seller of beef cattle for every pound his animals weighed above 450. Another part of the legislation proposed to give Hollywood film-makers \$10 million in tax subsidies. Yet another provision in the bill would have forced Missouri taxpayers to underwrite a Colorado company's attempt to open a train ride along abandoned tracks, complete with a dinner theater - even allowing an unelected commission to use eminent domain authority to serve the railroad's purposes.

“Tax credits have the state picking winners and losers in the marketplace—something government is ill-equipped to do,” said Sen. Bartle. “I’m pleased Governor Blunt saw fit to veto this flawed legislation.”

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