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District 8 – Capitol Building, Room 319 Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Legislation Streamlines Laws to Protect Missourians' Tax Dollars

Passing pro-business legislation benefiting Missouri's economy is one of my top priorities and has been a hallmark of recent legislative sessions. When Missouri business is thriving it creates jobs and wealth for all Missourians.

Two years ago Missouri implemented legislation I sponsored creating the Missouri Quality Jobs Act. This program offers tax incentives to give a boost to new businesses in both rural and urban areas that offer good-paying jobs for their employees. It is designed to foster economic development in Missouri and reward employers that bring good jobs to our state. The Missouri Quality Jobs Act has been a success and is responsible for many of the 53,000 new jobs created since January 2005.

However, after the law was passed, it became apparent that although the law prohibits casinos from being able to participate in the program, it has been interpreted to allow the headquarters of these businesses to be subsidized with your tax dollars. This year I filed Senate Bill 89 to close this loophole and disqualify such businesses from tax incentives. Missourians should not have their tax dollars going toward controversial businesses such as casinos, which have the potential to damage families and local economies.

If you have comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278.

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