



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SHOEMYER INTRODUCES PLAN TO PRESERVE LOCAL CONTROL

Senate Joint Resolution 18 Asks Voters to Amend Constitution to Protect Family Farmers, Rural Citizens

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today introduced a proposed constitutional amendment to preserve the authority of city councils, county commissions and other local government entities to adopt ordinances protecting the health and welfare of the citizens of Missouri.

Senate Joint Resolution 18 would send the proposed constitutional amendment to a vote of the people in the General Election in 2008. The proposed amendment would allow “the governing body of any county of this state, including the city of St. Louis, to adopt by ordinance or order regulations affecting the public health and welfare which are more restrictive than state law.”

“This will ensure that the fundamental belief that I’ve always had, that government is best when it’s closest to the people it serves, is protected,” Shoemyer said. “If your local commissioners or your local folks are not in charge, then you’re very willing to put someone from St. Louis or Kansas City or Springfield in charge of what happens in your county.”

Sen. Shoemyer filed SJR 18 partly in response to legislation introduced this year which would prohibit cities and counties from enacting regulations more restrictive than state or federal law. Senate Bill 364 states “local laws regarding the licensing or operation of a farm or farming-related activity that are not identical to state law and regulations, as promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources, are rendered null and void by the act.” Governor Blunt voiced his support for this state power grab during his recent State of the State address. The Missouri Farm Bureau is aggressively lobbying for SB 364, which protects the interests of industrial agriculture over the interests of Missouri’s family farmers and rural citizens.

“I think it’s time that we got the battle lines drawn clearly – are you for local control or are you not for local control?” Shoemyer said. “For those people who’ve claimed to have been for local control for all this time, I’m just tired of it. Let’s draw the lines, you vote against it, and then go home and tell your constituents you don’t have faith in them.”

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