



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Stormy Weather

JEFFERSON CITY – The line of severe storms that passed through Missouri Tuesday night seemed to do the most damage in northeast Missouri. I spent most of the day Wednesday touring the 18th Senatorial District with Rep. Rachel Bringer of Palmyra to see just how bad the storm damage was and to talk to folks about how we can help them get back on their feet.

Most of the worst damage seemed to be confined to Palmyra, although we have had reports of isolated damage throughout the district. In Palmyra, a town of about 3,500 residents, the storm apparently produced a tornado which damaged a number of homes and several businesses downtown. The local Ben Franklin store and the Great Center Lumber Company both lost their roofs, as did a church that housed a daycare center. A trucking company and a light manufacturing company in Palmyra both sustained significant damage from the storm.

Authorities also have reported damage in rural areas of Marion, Monroe, Shelby and Scotland counties in the 18th District. I lost 3 barns on my farm in Monroe County this week, but we'll pick up the pieces and continue on.

Fortunately, we have not received any reports of any loss of life due to the storms. Several people have reported injuries, including a woman whose car was flipped by the tornado on Highway 61 near Palmyra. Another man in Monroe County suffered minor injuries when his mobile home was damaged, but again, thankfully, no one was killed by the storm.

I met with officials from the State Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday while they toured the district assessing the storm damage. Once their assessment is completed,

we'll ask the governor to declare a disaster declaration to make state and federal assistance available to folks who suffered property damage.

We also might be able to secure some low-interest loans from the Small Business Administration to help business owners recover from the storm.

It's times like these that we tend to see the best in human nature – emergency responders risking life and limb to make sure everyone is okay, neighbors helping neighbors, communities pulling together to rebuild.

I'd like to hear what you have to say about this or any other issue. Please feel free to call me at 573-751-7852, or email me at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov.