



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SENATOR WES SHOEMYER NAMED TO RURAL HIGH-SPEED INTERNET TASK FORCE

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, has been named to the Rural High-Speed Internet Task Force by Governor Blunt. The task force, chaired by Lt. Governor Peter Kinder, is designed to address the technological needs of rural communities.

Specifically, the panel will:

- Assess the current level of high-speed internet access available in Missouri;
- Identify barriers to deployment to underserved areas including economic, geographic, regulatory and market barriers;
- Identify potential options to increase the deployment of high-speed Internet access in underserved communities;
- Review best practices in other states to increase high-speed Internet access;
- Recommend statutory, regulatory, and policy changes needed to increase the availability of high-speed Internet services across the state.

“Folks in rural areas of Missouri, like the 18th Senatorial District, should have the same access to today’s technology as our city cousins,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “Farmers today use computers to manage their operations and use the Internet to keep up with the latest innovations in crop and livestock operations, but it’s often difficult for them to do that quickly and efficiently. We need to find ways to make high-speed Internet access available to folks who live in rural areas.”

Sen. Shoemyer and members of the Rural High-Speed Internet Task Force are holding meetings in Sikeston and St. Louis this week. The panel will travel to Hannibal to discuss increasing high-speed Internet service to rural areas on January 7, 2008. The time and location of that meeting will be announced later.

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