



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

For the Week of:
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Jefferson City, MO 65101

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Excess Spending Bill Vetoed — How to Fix Wages and Quality Jobs

More than 94,000 jobs have been created in Missouri since the “Quality Jobs Act” was developed in 2005. This act revitalized new “family supporting” job creation in the state through incentive programs by attracting small businesses, new technology companies, and high impact projects to Missouri’s rural and urban areas. The act also encouraged “partnering opportunities” between eligible companies, their local community, and the state which led to greater opportunities, additional jobs, and increased economic activity.

By spurring job growth in Missouri, the “Quality Jobs Act” has laid the foundation and set the anchor for the future of economic development resources in our state.

This year, the General Assembly passed House Bill 327, tax-credit legislation loaded down with excessive spending, including incentives for businesses that fail to pay average or above-average wages. The legislation also fails to help employers provide employees with health coverage.

Governor Matt Blunt vetoed HB 327 and said he is prepared to call a special legislative session, as long as lawmakers are willing to pass a more restrained bill that will achieve the good objectives found in HB 327 — including expanding the successful Quality Jobs program.

HB 327 would have spent an estimated \$200 million above what the Quality Jobs program was authorized. The bill contained large and expensive projects, including tax breaks for “phantom flights” to Europe, and a provision that would harm many existing Missouri employers by putting them at a competitive disadvantage.

In the General Assembly, we call this type of legislation a “Christmas Tree” — where numerous amendments are added onto a bill, which can end up hurting the underlying piece of legislation more than helping it.

I was one of eight fiscally conservative lawmakers who voted against HB 327 in the Senate. We need to fix the Quality Jobs provision found in the vetoed legislation, even if it means convening in Jefferson City for a special session.

We were sent to serve our constituents to the best of our abilities and HB 327 clearly does not do that — the governor saw the flaw and it is our job as lawmakers to fix it. Missourians deserve a program that will benefit them and their family.

If you have questions or comments about the Missouri Quality Jobs Act or any other issue, please call my office toll free (866) 768-3987 or send me an e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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