



MISSOURI SENATE

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Senator Mayer Files Southeast Missouri Economic Recovery Act

JEFFERSON CITY — Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, introduced legislation to help Southeast Missouri rebuild after September's devastating storms. Senate Bill 706 expands the Missouri Quality Jobs Act to offer greater benefits to Bootheel businesses in federally declared natural disaster areas.

"Those of us affected by last fall's severe weather have worked hard to procure federal assistance, and this legislation will offer additional benefits for businesses," Mayer said. "Expanding tax credits under the Missouri Quality Jobs Act will allow area businesses to get back on their feet."

In November of last year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared several Southeast Missouri counties natural disaster areas due to the storms of Sept. 22-23, including Butler, Dunklin, Mississippi, Pemiscot, New Madrid and Stoddard counties. In addition, Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Ripley, Scott and Wayne counties were named as contiguous disaster areas and will also qualify for assistance. The disaster declarations were issued after more than a foot of rain, high winds, hail and tornadoes pummeled Southeast Missouri and resulted in widespread ground saturation and flooding.

SB 706 builds on federal assistance efforts by increasing available tax credits under the Missouri Quality Jobs Act, which offers incentives to businesses to create new jobs in Missouri. Mayer's legislation increases the amount of available credits from \$12 million to \$75 million per year and offers new job-training credits to supplement existing incentives. SB 706 also allows county governments to object to state tax credits for businesses moving out of their county, and it requires businesses to offer health insurance to workers in order to qualify for tax benefits.

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The legislation also gives a boost to manufacturers by exempting certain products used by industrial businesses from state and local sales and use taxes. In addition, it allows residents of Butler, Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Scott, Stoddard and Wayne counties to organize a vocational school district in the area.

“SB 706 will speed up the economic recovery of the Bootheel area by offering new benefits for area businesses and manufacturers,” Mayer said. “I know Southeast Missourians will utilize these incentives to get the regional economy back on track.”

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Senator Robert Mayer represents the people of Wayne, Ripley, Butler, Stoddard, New Madrid, Pemiscot and Dunklin counties in the Missouri Senate.