



## MISSOURI SENATE

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JEFFERSON CITY

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# Sen. Mayer to Host Copper Theft Forum on December 6<sup>th</sup> in Poplar Bluff

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JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. Rob Mayer, R-Dexter, is inviting people from Southeast Missouri to attend a community forum addressing the causes and possible solutions to the copper theft epidemic gripping much of the state. The meeting will be held at the Poplar Bluff City Hall at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. It follows similar meetings already held in Liberty and St. Peters.

“Irrigation center pivots of Bootheel farmers are being made inoperable by thieves stealing the copper cable and wiring on those pivots,” Sen. Mayer said. “While the thieves might get away with a few dollars worth of scrap copper, it can cost farmers anywhere between \$4,000 to \$10,000 for each pivot to get them working again. And as we approach the next growing season, it’s an expense of money and time our farmers cannot afford.”

Sen. Mayer adds thieves are also taking copper wire from telephone poles and power lines, which has the potential to leave some of our most isolated, vulnerable citizens in the cold and dark with no way of contacting the outside.

The meetings will help identify policies to help protect consumers, farmers, business owners, and utilities from this type of theft. In addition, Sen. Mayer plans to introduce legislation in the coming session that will require scrap metal dealers to get driver’s license information from the people who sell them the copper as well as vehicle information.

“This information will help law enforcement agencies more easily track down metal thieves,” said Sen. Mayer. “I urge my colleagues to sign on to my proposal, and I ask my fellow Southeast Missourians to join me on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Poplar Bluff City Hall to find other solutions to this problem that is hurting so many of our farmers and rural citizens.”

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