



MISSOURI SENATE

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Sen. Griesheimer Named to Rural Internet Access Task Force

JEFFERSON CITY— Sen. John Griesheimer, R-Washington, has been tapped to serve on the new Rural High-Speed Internet Access Task Force. The governor created the 29-member group of lawmakers, government officials, and industry representatives to find ways to increase access to technology across the state.

“Making sure the people of rural Missouri have the same access to many of the technologies most people in the cities take for granted is a big priority for me,” said Sen. Griesheimer, who also sits on the Senate’s Interim Committee on 21st Century Choice Technology. “We cannot allow a digital divide between urban and rural to continue to exist in this state.”

Specifically, the group will look at issues regarding high-speed Internet access availability in Missouri; identify any obstacles to technology development in underserved areas including economic, geographic, regulatory, and market barriers; identify potential options to increase the deployment of high-speed Internet access in underserved communities; look at other states’ best practices to increase high-speed Internet access; and recommend any changes in policies and statutes needed to increase the availability of high-speed Internet services across the state. The group’s findings will be submitted to the governor by February 1st, 2008.

Sen. Griesheimer has been a longtime advocate for rural telecommunications rights. This past session he was able to help pass a new law that will simplify the process for cable companies that want to offer services to several communities simultaneously, especially rural ones.

“The Internet is a great tool that everyone from students to our most elderly can use to enrich their lives,” said Sen. Griesheimer. “I look forward to working with the members of this important task force to make sure all Missourians have access to the latest technologies and the good things those technologies bring.”

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