



Office of  
**Jason Crowell** State Senator  
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell – Serving Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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## Missouri's Strong Economy

Missouri has created nearly 80,000 new jobs since January of 2005. Our state's unemployment rate fell by more than a full point since 2005, dropping from 5.9 percent to a current 4.6 percent and Missouri set a record for exports in 2006, with \$12.8 billion in sales to 191 countries around the world – a nearly 25 percent increase over the previous year.



Missouri workers continually demonstrate to the nation and the world that the people of the Show-Me State not only want the job, they get the job done and done right. Missouri employers also deserve recognition. Whether they've been here for years, just started up, or recently moved here from other locales, Missouri's manufacturing, retail, industrial, agriculture and service-based companies create the need for the aforementioned top-notch workforce.

The Missouri Quality Jobs Act is a job-creating initiative that I strongly backed and was widely endorsed by many other legislators in 2005. Job creation as a prime, long term economic engine is a marked departure from the shortsighted tax-heavy climate of a few years back that essentially walled Missouri off from companies looking to relocate here and began driving some of those that were here off to friendlier environments.

The Quality Jobs program, which offers tax credits to companies that expand their workforce, has retained more than 2,000 jobs and helped create more than 12,000 new jobs. As required to qualify for the program, these jobs pay above the average wage in their respective counties (collective average is \$46,856) and include meaningful healthcare

benefits. The total return on every state dollar invested in the Quality Jobs program yields \$3.18 in additional state tax revenue.

During this legislative session, my colleagues and I are working to capitalize on the successes of the Missouri Quality Jobs Act by further enhancing the program. Senate Bill 282 and House Bill 327 improve conditions for participating companies moving from one Missouri county to another, expands the amount of tax credits that a participating company can earn in a given year and allows for greater use of the tax credits. This measure and similar companion Senate and House legislation is making swift progress.



The continued growth of quality jobs drives the growth in quality of life for all Missourians. Clearly, abating a tax on business is proving far more effective at building the economy than the past practice of piling a tax on business.

## **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: [jcrowell@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jcrowell@senate.mo.gov) or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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