



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# With Deepest Gratitude

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JEFFERSON CITY – I wanted to take the opportunity this week to thank everyone who has been lending a hand to help their neighbors recover from the deadly ice storms that pounded the region last weekend.

Storm damage totals in the 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District are still being compiled, but state officials believe the costs will be high and possibly the worst on record from bad weather. The widespread power outages have had a ripple effect through the local economy. Restaurants and grocers were forced to toss out perishable foods due to outages, consumers focused on the basic necessities of life rather than patronizing local merchants, and livestock producers have struggled to feed and shelter their herds.

The Missouri Cattlemen's Association says the ice storms hit some of the top producing counties in the state's \$1.5 billion cattle industry. Ice up to a couple of inches thick downed trees, utility poles and power lines, leaving more than 330,000 customers in the dark at the peak of the power outage.

Governor Blunt is to be commended for quickly responding to the disaster by sending Missouri National Guard troops to the region. Guard members helped transport generators, went door-to-door in affected areas to check on the well-being of their fellow Missourians, and distributed food, water and blankets.

The Missouri Water Patrol also checked on the health and welfare of residents in Dallas and Hickory counties. The Office of Administration delivered more than 150 generators and 11 pallets of Meals Ready to Eat. The Department of Social Services has staffed shelters,

while the Department of Corrections helped transport donated goods and equipment to affected areas.

Just as important as the state's response to this disaster is the response of our citizens. Times like these tend to bring out the best in people, and we have seen countless examples of neighbors helping neighbors, of people checking on seniors and the homebound, and Missourians with power providing shelter for those without it.

These acts of kindness and everyday heroism reflect the inherent goodness of the people of Missouri. I just want to personally thank everyone whose kindness and generosity of spirit helped others get through one of the worst natural disasters in our state's history. God Bless you all.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us)

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*