WEEKLY REPORT
State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32

Week of August 27, 2007

Accomplishments During Special Session

This weekend, friends and family will gather together to enjoy a long weekend and celebrate Labor Day. The timing of this holiday, which honors the determination of the American worker, corresponds to the work we have been doing in the Missouri Senate this week. The economic development package we helped to develop will give more workers in Missouri the chance to get good, quality jobs.

My colleagues and I worked late into the night in order to pass House Bill 1, an economic development package full of economy-stimulating incentives. One of the main provisions of the economic development package expands the Quality Jobs Act's cap from $12 million to $40 million. To date, the Quality Jobs Program has created more than 12,500 jobs in our state that pay an average of $46,000 and at least half the employees' healthcare benefits. By increasing the caps on the program, we are creating at least 3,000 new jobs in our state.

An incentive that will benefit rural Missouri is the Qualified Beef Tax Credit Act. Experts estimate that up to $600 million in economic benefits are lost by selling calves to operations in other states to be finished. Animals that qualify for the tax credit of 10 cents per pound above the baseline weight are 200 pounds above the baseline weight when sold. A qualifying beef animal must be born in Missouri after August 28, 2008, and must be raised and finished in Missouri by the taxpayer. This way, we are encouraging ranchers to keep beef in Missouri while expanding possibilities for the industry within our state. The legislation funds the Qualified Beef Tax Credit Act up to $3 million.

House Bill 2, which will maintain more than 800 Missouri bridges, is on its way to the governor. The bill provides language to allow the state to advance with the Missouri Department of Transportation's Safe and Sound bridge repair program, which was stalled by current bonding statutes that did not address plans of this magnitude or length of time. The provisions in House

Bill 2 give MoDOT the green light on the innovative bridge repair program. The plan will take five years for the initial repairs and replacements of the 802 bridges, then include another 25 years of maintenance on the structures. One contractor will be hired to oversee the expansive project. The project's total cost is expected to be between $400-600 million, and the agency will need no additional appropriations to pay this cost. MoDOT plans to repair or replace 19 bridges in the 32nd District. These include:

County	Route	Feature Intersected	Federal Struc. ID	Bridge Design No.	Category
DADE	MO 245 S	STOCKTON LK	1767	A2084	3-Minor
JASPER	RT P E	TURKEY CR	598	A0827	3-Minor
JASPER	US 71 S	MNA RR	499	A0685	5-Major
DADE	RT Z E	GLASS HOLLOW BR	8244	R0284	4-Minor
NEWTON	MO 43 S	BIG LOST CR	5401	J0454	4-Minor
DADE	MO 39 S	HONEY CR	4748	G0771	3-Minor
DADE	RT Z E	LIMESTONE CR	8245	R0285	4-Minor
JASPER	MO 171 N	MNA RR	6182	L0290	4-Major
DADE	RT K E	TURNBACK CR	7420	N0279	4-Minor
JASPER	RT Y S	LIT SPRING RVR	7859	P0748	3-Minor
JASPER	RT D E	BR OF SPRING RVR	9994	Y0594	4-Minor
JASPER	RT D E	SPRING RVR	9993	Y0593	3-Minor
JASPER	RT D E	CR	9968	Y0409	4-Minor
JASPER	RT M E	N FK SPRING RVR	9668	X0435	3-Minor
NEWTON	MO 86 E	SPRING BR	10028	Z0210	4-Minor
NEWTON	RT DD E	MASON SPR BR	7304	N0856	3-Minor
DADE	MO 245 S	CARLOCK BR	8568	S0037	3-Minor
JASPER	RT O S	BUCK BR	9278	T0775	4-Minor
DADE	RT N S	FK OF MUDDY CR	8277	R0325	4-Minor

The legislation we worked on this week took deliberate thought and debate, but we were able to accomplish the goals the governor asked us to in his call for a special session. I appreciate the chance to serve the people of Southwest Missouri, and will continue to keep your interests at heart in Jefferson City and during the remaining interim. I hope everyone has a pleasant Labor Day.

Senator Gary Nodler represents the people of Newton, Jasper
and Dade counties in the Missouri Senate.