



WEEKLY REPORT

State Senator Gary Nodler
District 32



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Cleaning Up

Protecting Air and Water Quality in Our Communities

In the Senate this week, there was much discussion over Senate Bill 364, a bill that places state regulations on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). During these debates, the issue of the environmental effects of CAFOs came up repeatedly. I would like to take the time to discuss legislation of mine currently pending on the calendar dealing with agricultural operations that persistently violate environmental standards.

Senate Bill 534 makes air and water quality of our communities a top priority by taking a stand against polluters. The legislation raises penalties against operations that violate environmental regulations set by the Department of Natural Resources and cause a nuisance in our communities. In this way, we can utilize modern agricultural practices while also keeping in mind the effects we have on the environment.

SB 534 targets persistent offenders, which include any operation that has violated DNR regulations six times during a 12-month period, and creates penalties such as the revocation of operating permits. The bill increases monetary penalties for operations that violate air and water pollution regulations more than once during a 36-month period. A single violation in this time period could be cited with a fine of up to \$10,000 per day. Subsequent offenses in this same type period garner a surcharge. This surcharge is the subsequent violation's penalty plus any and all fines assessed for the prior violation or violations. The funds from the increased fines will benefit Missouri by going into the newly created "Air Pollution Enforcement Fund," which will fund public education and air and water pollution enforcement.

This legislation would apply to CAFOs as well as recycling companies that process animal parts. That means the regulations would cover companies like Renewable Environmental

Solutions in Carthage. This company has been the center of much controversy due to an odor that was a nuisance for the community. The legal battle that followed these violations would not be necessary with SB 534.

Last year, I introduced an identical bill, but was unable to get a hearing in Senate committee. This year, my legislation received unanimous committee approval and I am confident that it will pass the Senate. This law will provide a guide for cleaning up Missouri's environment and paving a way for a better future in this state.

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