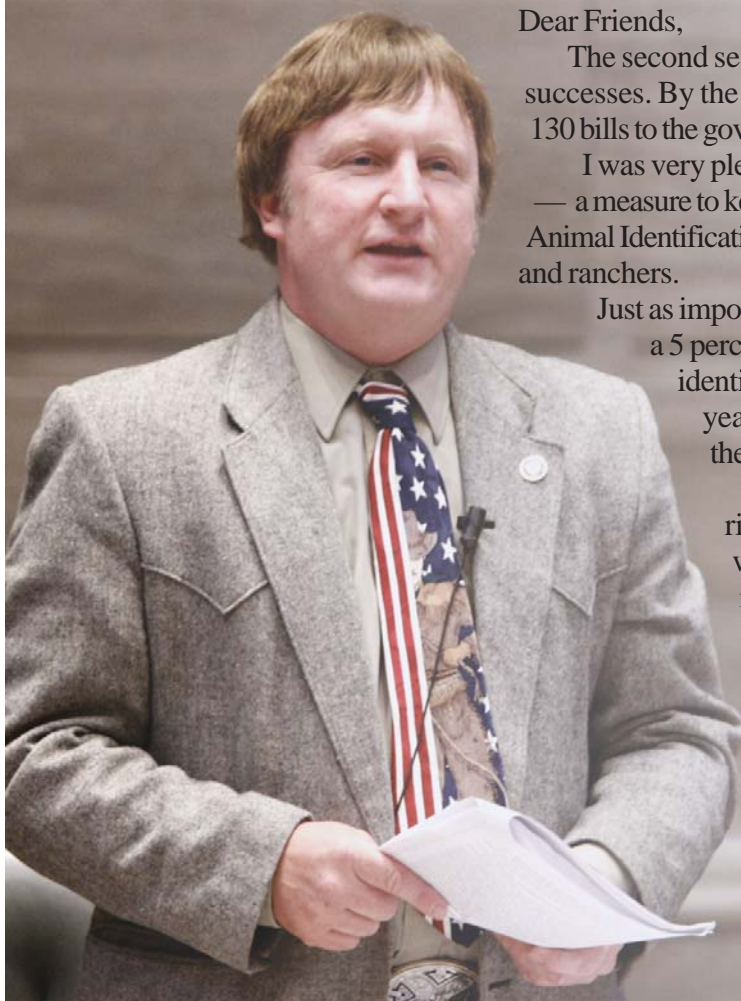


Senator Chuck Purgason

Capitol Report — District 33



Dear Friends,

The second session of the 94th General Assembly was full of challenges and successes. By the time the session adjourned on May 16, we had sent more than 130 bills to the governor in order to continue to make Missouri a great place to live.

I was very pleased to be able to successfully advance one of my top priorities — a measure to keep participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) program VOLUNTARY for Missouri farmers and ranchers.

Just as importantly, I opposed a biodiesel mandate that would have instituted a 5 percent biodiesel requirement for diesel fuel, which was essentially identical to the 10 percent ethanol mandate for gasoline enacted a few years ago — which I also opposed. The biodiesel measure died in the Missouri House.

Passing a balanced budget was another priority of mine. With rising fuel costs and people tightening their belts, I am worried whether our state budget can sustain the level of spending growth in a time when revenues are just holding or dropping off. As a watchdog of your state tax dollars, I urged lawmakers to carefully consider this to ensure your tax dollars continue to fund vital human services FIRST before the creation of any new programs, requirements or mandates.

As always, thank you for your support. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your state senator and represent your voice in Jefferson City.

Chuck Purgason
Senator, 33rd District

INSIDE:

**Voluntary
Animal
I.D.**

**Safer
Missouri
Waters**

**Defeating
Biodiesel
Mandate**

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Success In Keeping Animal ID Program Voluntary

It was very important for Missouri farmers and ranchers that we pass Senate Bill 931 — an omnibus agriculture bill approved by the General Assembly. The legislation contained a provision I sponsored that ensures Missouri's participation in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Identification System (NAIS) remains voluntary.

Under the new law, the Missouri Department of Agriculture cannot mandate premises registration under the NAIS program — a government-run program that identifies and tracks specific livestock to monitor animal health — unless authorized by the Missouri General Assembly.

I sponsored the measure to protect farmers' property rights from governmental intrusion and to protect them from having to shell out money for microchips and scanners and all of the equipment needed to comply with the NAIS.

If the NAIS program were mandatory, farmers with small operations would have been required to register and pay a fee for every head of livestock and poultry, while large corporate farms would have incurred lower costs for registering entire herds and earned higher profits. That is just plain wrong.

Previously, farmers who enrolled in the NAIS program had no way to drop out. The new law allows NAIS participants to withdraw from the program at any time,



Missouri farmers will not be required to register their animals as part of the NAIS program without legislative authority after Sen. Purgason successfully advanced the measure.

plus requires their personal information be deleted unless the producer is part of an ongoing disease investigation.

Another important measure in Senate Bill 931 adds spotted knapweed to the state's noxious weed list. Although relatively new in Missouri, spotted knapweed has been a serious pasture pest in northern and western states for years because it crowds out desirable pasture and hay species. This measure will help reduce the spread of this harmful weed.

Ensuring Safety on Missouri's Waterways

Safety on our waterways is vitally important. Equipping the Missouri Water Patrol with the resources it needs to patrol our lakes and rivers and protect our citizens was the aim of legislation I successfully advanced.

Senate Bill 1187 removes the 99-member cap on the number of Missouri Water Patrol employees. The cap was included in last year's legislation that increased funding for the state law enforcement agency.

In addition, I supported successful legislation (House Bill 1715) that reduces the legal blood alcohol content limit from .10 percent to .08 percent for operating a vessel on the water — matching limits set for driving a vehicle on the roadways. Watercraft operators will now think twice before operating a boat under the influence of alcohol.

These important changes will boost safety on Missouri's waterways and help save many lives.



Sen Purgason sponsored legislation to equip the Missouri Water Patrol with adequate personnel to protect and serve the public on state waters, and supported legislation to strengthen boat operator safety laws.

Opposing Mandates That Hurt Missouri Farmers

I opposed a bill (SB 759) during the legislative session that would have imposed a biodiesel mandate on diesel fuel for Missourians. As a small government conservative, I believe governmental intrusion in the market should be avoided as much as possible. Ten Senate colleagues and I — and many others — opposed the bill, which thankfully died in the House.

I want to tell you why I strongly opposed the government mandate. I am not opposed to the production of biodiesel itself. Biodiesel is an alternative fuel made from any biodegradable oil, including vegetable oil or animal fat. In Missouri, the fuel is made primarily from soybeans.

I am, however, strongly opposed to the government overreaching its bounds. Let me explain: as a state, we should not be providing subsidies to yet another industry, and, in this case, guaranteeing a ready-made market for the soybean industry. It would create an artificial demand for a product and represent a backward thought process by forgetting the consumer's role in the marketplace.

When the demand rises for a product, the price will naturally rise as well. By creating a demand for soybeans, we are inflating the price. Increased demand for soybeans also means less acres for other crops, creating an overall rise in the price of food — and hitting Missourians square in



Sen. Purgason arguing on the Senate floor against a proposal in Senate Bill 759 that would have created a biodiesel mandate for diesel fuel.

the pocketbook at the worst possible time. The greatest crunch is put on the small family farmer who has to pay high feed prices, but may not be able to survive until meat prices increase.

I recognize the need to assert our independence from foreign oil, but passing a mandate significantly increases food prices and halts the innovations of other possibilities for alternative fuel. The biodiesel industry should have to prove itself by building a relationship with you, the customer, just as any fledgling business would do.

I think it's important to note that producing biodiesel is not cheap either, resulting in the fuel typically being priced a couple of cents higher per gallon or at the same price as regular diesel. Cost effectiveness is not a compelling argument in this case.

In 2007, we saw the biggest jump in food prices in 17 years. The average retail price of a dozen eggs increased 38 percent from November 2006 to November 2007, with milk prices rising 30 percent. According to *Family Economics and Nutrition Review*, low-income households spend 48 percent of their income on food, while the middle class spend 13 percent and the wealthiest only 8 percent.

In this uncertain economy, we cannot afford to keep stacking the deck against hard-working families by doling out freebies and interfering with the free market principles that guide our country's economic framework.

That's why I oppose biodiesel and ethanol mandates.

Curbing Copper Theft

The Legislature gave full passage to legislation I supported that provides more protections for farmers, homeowners, businesses, and utilities from the theft of industrial metals — a growing and troublesome problem occurring across the state and nation.

Senate Bill 1034 now requires stronger recordkeeping by scrap dealers and increases the penalties for stealing or unlawfully selling copper, brass, bronze or aluminum.

Thieves will no longer be able to profit from selling stolen scrap metal with no record of who they are and where the metal came from.

Fighting Illegal Immigration

I supported House Bill 1549 that bars illegal immigrants from applying for food stamps, housing and other public benefits and from obtaining state driver's licenses.

The new law also cracks down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants and gives the State Highway Patrol authority, training and resources to help enforce immigration laws.

While considered a federal issue, illegal immigration is a growing concern in Missouri and other states because of the hundreds of millions of dollars in jobs, benefits and services it costs each year.

2008-2009 Budget for the 33rd District

Funding for Public Schools: \$148.6 million

South Central Correctional Center: \$12.5 million in operating funds.

State parks in the 33rd District get nearly \$1.7 million

Lake of the Ozark State Park:	\$1,058,182
Ozark Caverns at Lake of the Ozark State Park:	\$58,647
Ha Ha Tonka State Park:	\$294,760
Bennett Springs State Park:	\$723,254
Grand Gulf State Park:	\$75,246

MO Schools for the Severely Disabled: \$1,231,238

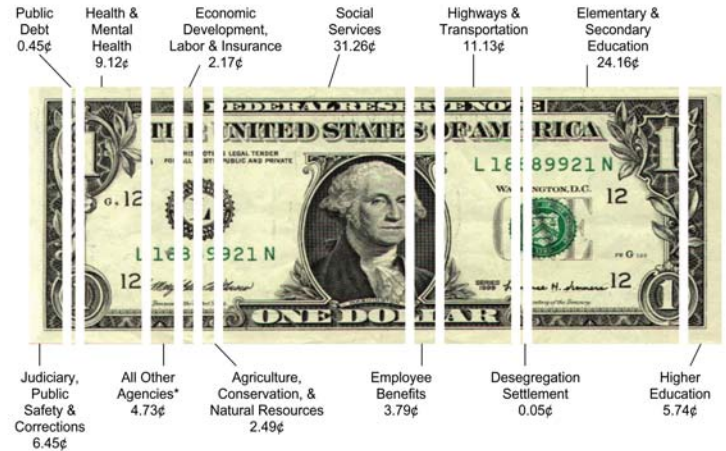
Missouri State University, Springfield
(in nearby District 30): \$89.9 million

Capital Improvements:

Camdenton Voc. Technical Center: \$1.25 million

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FY 2009 MISSOURI OPERATING BUDGET
All Funds: \$22.444 Billion



* Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly, Real Estate

Source: Senate Appropriations Committee



Gubernatorial Appointments

Senator Purgason with, clockwise from left: Larry Butler (West Plains), Missouri Propane Gas Commission; Kenneth Miller (Lebanon), Linn State Technical College Board of Regents; Kathy Carter (Four Seasons), Mental Health Commission; Karen Thornton (Sunrise Beach), Missouri Women's Council; and Joyce Massey (Lebanon), Child Abuse and Neglect Board.

Senator Chuck Purgason

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