



# State Senator Harry Kennedy

Room 226 - State Capitol - Jefferson City, MO - Phone 573 - 751 - 2126

## PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2008

# Sen. Kennedy Files Bill to Promote International Flights from Lambert-St. Louis

JEFFERSON CITY— State Senator Harry Kennedy, D-St. Louis, this week filed Senate Bill 947, which doubles the cap in the Aviation Trust Fund and allocates money to study and promote international flights from Missouri. A similar measure was approved by Missouri lawmakers in 2007 as part of a sweeping economic development bill, which was later vetoed by the governor.

SB 947 increases the cap on the amount of jet fuels sales taxes that can be deposited into the State Aviation Trust Fund from \$6 million to \$12 million. It allows \$2 million from the Aviation Trust Fund to be used to study or promote expanded domestic or international commercial airline service, to study or promote existing commercial service, and to assist regional airports participating in federally-funded air service programs supporting intrastate commercial service.

“St. Louis hasn’t had regular overseas flights from Lambert International since service to London was cancelled nearly five years ago,” Sen. Kennedy said. “My bill provides the tools to help us land a major carrier at Lambert to resume international flights. This could bring tens of millions of dollars in economic activity back to our region.”

Sen. Kennedy noted that the new trans-Atlantic treaty known as “Open Skies” took effect in March. This treaty allows any air carrier, U.S. or European, to fly to any U.S. or European destination.

“Open Skies will literally do just what it says – open the skies over the Atlantic to more air traffic,” Sen. Kennedy said. “I know officials at Lambert are hopeful they can land a carrier to fly nonstop from St. Louis to Europe, and I think SB 947 can help make that happen.”

SB 947 is scheduled to be read a second time on the Senate floor January 16, when it will then be assigned to a committee for a public hearing. Sen. Kennedy says he is confident his colleagues will approve the legislation again.

“The St. Louis region has one of the largest Bosnian populations outside of Bosnia-Herzegovina,” Sen. Kennedy said. “This bill along with the Open Skies Treaty will allow Lambert to study the feasibility of opening a route to Bosnia or any other destination.”

***Senator Kennedy can be contacted at – Phone: 573-751-2126.***

###