



MISSOURI SENATE

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Sen. Jeff Smith Sponsors Bipartisan “Green Building” Bill

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jeff Smith, D-St. Louis, today testified before the Senate Commerce, Energy and the Environment Committee in support of Senate Bill 1117, dubbed the “green building” bill. Smith notes his legislation contains many of the environmentally-friendly ideas developed by the Missouri Energy Task Force and mentioned by the governor during his State of the State address in January; Committee Chairman Kevin Engler (R-Farmington) has expressed support for the ideas within the bill.

“This is a bipartisan effort developed with input from lawmakers, environmental engineers, facilities experts, energy company officials, realtors, Department of Natural Resources officials, architects, students, citizen activists and others who care about our environment,” Sen. Smith said. “Climate change and other major environmental challenges seem daunting to most individuals who wonder how one person can make a difference. I know that one person can make a difference, and our collective efforts will ensure we leave a healthy planet to our children.”

Senate Bill 1117 is an omnibus environmental bill, which if enacted would:

- Ensure any appliance purchased with state funding is an Energy Star appliance;
- Require that any government building or school district building constructed or renovated meet 2006 International Energy Conservation Code standards;
- Require at least 10% of the electricity used by state buildings come from renewable sources of energy by 2016, and 20% by 2026;

- Allow tax credits for taxpayers who build a green building or modify an existing structure into a green building;
- Create two income tax deductions: a 50% deduction of the cost of a home energy audit conducted by a certified energy auditor, and 100% deduction of the purchase price paid for Energy Star labeled products, up to \$1,000 per taxpayer per year; and
- Create the “Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday” for the entire month of April of each year, in which all sales of Energy Star certified appliances are exempt from state and local sales taxes.

“It will require all of us working together to address these challenges,” Sen. Smith said. “There is a sense of urgency since we’re beginning to see some of the impacts of climate change, such as the melting polar ice caps and unusually strong storms. This is one of the most urgent issues facing our generation.”

SB 1117 must receive an affirmative committee vote before moving to the Senate floor for debate; however, the ideas within the bill may be incorporated into Chairman Engler’s omnibus energy bill.

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