



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Senator Matt Bartle
8th Senate District

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Sen. Matt Bartle Pre-files Ethanol Mandate Repeal

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Matt Bartle (R-Lee’s Summit) today (12/1) pre-filed a bill that would repeal the ethanol mandate passed by the General Assembly during the 2006 legislative session. The legislation, which took effect Jan. 1, 2008, requires most gasoline sold in Missouri to contain at least 10 percent ethanol (E-10).

Senator Bartle was a vigorous opponent of the mandate when it came through the Missouri Senate, and he is making the repeal one of his top priorities for the 2009 legislative session.

“The State of Missouri has no business forcing people to buy high-priced ethanol,” Sen. Bartle said. “This mandate encourages farmers to grow corn for fuel instead of corn for food, driving up the prices on the consumer and hurting Missouri families struggling to pay for groceries. This is the worst possible time to make things any more financially difficult for Missourians, all of whom are affected by food prices and are trying to make ends meet. It also raises feed corn prices for livestock farmers, dealing a blow to the state’s agriculture industry. This ethanol mandate is essentially a large tax increase on every Missouri family who is forced to purchase ethanol-laced gasoline.”

A recent study by the Show-Me Institute on the economic impact of the E-10 mandate reports that taking into account the decrease in fuel efficiency of E-10 and the taxpayer cost of ethanol subsidies, the mandate will likely result in a net loss to Missouri consumers of hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 10 years. Considering the E-10 mandate’s role in higher food prices, these costs could be even higher.

“Government should not be in the business of picking ‘winners’ and ‘losers’ in the market,” Sen. Bartle said. “This idea of squashing competition and propping up certain industries over others is hurting families who are struggling to get by. It is time for the Legislature to take up and pass a repeal of this mandate in 2009.”

December 1 is the first day legislators may pre-file bills for the 2009 legislative session. The First Regular Session of the 95th Missouri General Assembly begins Jan. 7, 2009.

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