



SENATOR MATT BARTLE

District 8 – Capitol Building, Room 319 Jefferson City, MO 65101

Column for Week of:
October 13, 2008

Contact: Todd Scott
(573) 751-1464 / (888) 711-9278

Our Role in Energy Independence

Last week we talked about moving the United States and the state of Missouri further along the road of energy independence through the innovation of the private sector and by the government removing unnecessary and burdensome regulations that often hinder such innovation. However, responsibility for energy independence rests not only on the shoulders of private enterprise and government, but also on each citizen.

We have an obligation to be good stewards of all things we are entrusted with, including our tremendous natural resources. In many cases, those choices that help reduce waste of natural resources will also help save the individual citizen a few dollars a month on his or her energy bill.

As individuals, we don't have to approach the issue of worldwide energy demand on a grand scale; small, simple steps can make a big difference. For starters, as we head into winter, heating bills are expected to rise because of the increased price in natural gas. We can conserve energy by weather-proofing our homes, replacing inefficient water heaters and furnaces with more energy-efficient units, being mindful of the thermostat or installing a programmable thermostat, and taking advantage of the sun's heat by opening the curtains on south-facing windows during the day. To avoid sharp rate increases during the coldest months, try participating in budget billing programs available through most utility companies. More tips for saving energy are available at the U.S. Department of Energy's Web site: <http://www.energysavers.gov>.

On an unrelated note, this week marked the passage of a special, if little known, holiday. October 15 was Missouri Day, a celebration of the state and the achievements of all Missourians. On March 22, 1915, the 48th General Assembly designated the third Wednesday in October each year as "Missouri Day," due to the efforts of native Missourian Anna Brosius Korn, who believed that Missourians needed more opportunity to study and appreciate the state and its people.

Missouri's history is full of notable individuals and events and contained within the borders of the Show-Me State are thousands of square miles of beautiful and scenic landscapes. Missouri is truly a wonderful place to call home.

If you have any comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

-END-