



**Column For Week of: May 5, 2008**

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## Funding for the 16<sup>th</sup> District

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am closely involved in the budget process. While much of our focus throughout the legislative session is on the 13 bills that make up the state's budget, the committee also discusses supplemental funding and capital improvement expenses. This week, we discussed House Bill 2023, which contains funding for renovations and new construction in our state. Several of these items included projects in the 16<sup>th</sup> District.

In our district, students have the opportunity to pursue a higher education at a variety of different institutions. I have worked to make sure that these educational resources are receiving the funding they need in this year's budget, including funding for new construction and projects. Linn State Technical College is focused on providing a quality technical education to its students. In order to support this mission, they will be receiving \$10 million to build a new facility for their heavy equipment technology program. Missouri University Science and Technology is nationally recognized as one of the top technological research universities. Known especially for their engineering programs, the school will receive \$500,000 for a joint engineering project with Missouri State University.

A new educational opportunity is going to be coming to Waynesville. The Capital Improvement funding includes \$5.75 million for a vocational education facility. This school will provide career-based educational opportunities for area students.

House Bill 2023 also contains \$2 million for the planning, designing, and renovation at Missouri Agricultural Experiment Station facilities. One of these facilities is located in our district. Wurdack Farms is located along the Meramec River near Cook Station in

the northeast Ozarks. The farm is used to conduct demonstrations and research in integrated livestock, forages, forestry, and wildlife management practices that are economically viable, environmentally sound, and sociologically acceptable for the Ozark Region of Missouri.

Missouri's state parks will also receive funding, and one of these parks is located in Dent County. The Department of Natural Resources will receive \$1.3 million for maintenance, repairs, and replacements at park and campground facilities. A portion of this funding will go to Montauk State Park, which will use the money to make improvements to the cabins on the property.

These capital improvement projects work to improve our state. They enhance the educational assets, agricultural resources, and tourism opportunities in the 16<sup>th</sup> District. The state's operating budget for fiscal year 2009 is now complete, but there is still plenty of work to be done to advance our community and our state, and I will continue to do my best to serve the interests of the 16<sup>th</sup> District.

### **Contact Me**

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to call me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2108. You can also write to me at Frank Barnitz, Missouri Senate, State Capitol, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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