



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of Feb. 03, 2008**

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Calm Before the Storm

JEFFERSON CITY – Things have been a bit slow at the Capitol this week as bills make their way through the various committees before being sent to the Senate floor for debate. It doesn't make a lot of sense at this point to talk about particular bills because you never know whether they will be voted out of committee. When bills reach the Senate floor and members begin debating the merits of those bills, you begin to get an idea of what might or might not be approved. So I thought I'd take an opportunity while things are slow to tell you a little bit about my great staff, who do the heavy lifting around here.

Kathy Armstrong of Jefferson City is my Assistant, and this year marks her 20th session with the Missouri General Assembly. Kathy basically runs my Senate office – keeping track of legislation as it moves through the two chambers, and keeping me up to date on the things I need to know to effectively represent you in the Senate. I'm lucky to have someone as competent and experienced as Kathy is working for me.

Ian Dunlap of Perry is my Director of Constituent Affairs and basically takes care of the district. Ian, the son of Monty and Becky Dunlap, is from the district and knows the area well. I've come to think of him as a member of my family. Ian works on constituent issues for our office, travels with me in the district and attends a lot of meetings, especially when I have a conflict and am unable to attend them myself. When you call my office to discuss some issue that concerns you, these are the people you'll talk to first.

I'd also like to like to thank our intern this session, Kristin Jacobs, who is majoring in justice systems at Truman State University in Kirksville. She's received a real trial by fire

working in our office and has been a great asset to our office as we work our way through the 2008 session.

We welcomed a lot of visitors to our Capitol office this week, including some folks from MoDOT who gave us a preview of Director Pete Rahn's address this week to a joint session of the House and Senate. A number of students from Truman State University in Kirksville stopped by the office this week as they talked to lawmakers about educational issues, and Mizzou law student Karen Bickel stopped in for a visit. I also was pleased to see my neighbors Bob and Kate Decker of Clarence who stopped by the office while they visited the Capitol, and we met with some folks representing Rural Electric Cooperatives this week. As always, I invite you to stop by our Capitol office, Room 434, anytime you are in Jefferson City.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.