



PRESS RELEASE

State Senator Wes Shoemyer – 18th District

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SEN. SHOEMYER’S AMENDMENT TO GIVE VOTERS A VOICE IN CAMPAIGN FINANCE DEBATE SHOT DOWN

JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Wes Shoemyer, D-Clarence, today offered an amendment to a bill eliminating campaign contribution limits which would send the issue back to the voters of Missouri. In 1994, Missouri voters approved campaign contribution limits to candidates for state and local office by a 3-1 margin.

Proposition A was approved by voters to limit the influence of special interests in government by placing low ceilings on campaign contributions. The limits approved by voters are \$100 and \$200 depending on the population of the political district, and \$300 for statewide offices.

Senate Bill 1038, sponsored by Majority Floor Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, would repeal the contribution limits approved by a large majority of Missouri citizens 14 years ago. Lawmakers approved a similar measure last year, but the state Supreme Court threw out the law on technical grounds.

“This issue was put plainly before the voters in 1994, and we should send it back to the people to see if they have changed their minds,” Sen. Shoemyer said today during floor debate. “We ought to ask the people if they want to allow unlimited contributions or not.”

Sen. Shoemyer’s amendment to SB 1038 would have placed the referendum on the November 2008 ballot. The amendment was rejected 20-11 on a party line vote.

“If we eliminate the contribution limits, then somebody will be able to give a candidate \$90,000 or \$100,000,” Sen. Shoemyer said. “At least that way we’ll know who owns you. But I don’t think that’s what voters had in mind when they overwhelmingly approved these limits in ’94.”

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