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## MISSOURI SENATE JEFFERSON CITY

**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of August 4, 2008**

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# It's Been a Busy Summer

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JEFFERSON CITY – This is one of my favorite times of the year. The past weeks, I have been traveling around the district to all the 4-H auctions and shows. I really enjoy getting the opportunity to meet and talk with the kids and their parents and hear their stories about raising their livestock or curing their hams. I am encouraged about the future of family farming, I believe we are leaving it in very capable hands. You know, you hear all of these stories about kids not having anything to do but sit around play video games, come by a county fair and you will meet some young people who have a commitment to not only 4-H and FFA, but farming and keeping family values alive in rural Missouri.

The Missouri State Fair started this week and runs through the 17th. They are doing it a little earlier than in past years, which is a good idea, considering how many schools start classes during the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>. This way, all the kids and families from throughout the Show-Me State will be able to take part in the fair without having to worry about missing out on anything.

Water has dominated our summer and it looks like the Mississippi is getting back to normal levels, but now we have to be concerned about the release of water from Mark Twain Lake. The families that were evacuated now have to go back home and survey the damage and determine their next step.

We are still urging the Governor to issue a state declaration. This will help get state and federal funding to the area so we can clean up, rebuild, and move past the devastation that has taken so much away from us, yet has brought out the best in us over the past few months. If you have questions you can call the Public Information Office with the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) at **573-526-9136**.

With the primary elections over, the general election season is going to hit its full stride. That means more commercials and more automatic calls. I am pretty sure everybody has received at least one automated political phone call over the last couple of weeks. I will file legislation again next year to add “robo calls” or automated calls to the no call list. Last year we tried to get a bill, Senate Bill 840, passed but unfortunately, it ran out of steam on the last day of the session. Our intention was to get the bill passed and signed so Missourians would have been able to sit through dinner without the phone ringing and hearing a recording from a candidate or someone supporting a candidate telling us why we should vote for somebody.

I want to give you all a quick reminder that just because the Legislature is not in session it does not mean my office is closed. Kathy and Ian are in my Capitol office every day to help answer any questions or concerns you might have. I cannot say enough about them. They do a great job and I would be completely lost without them.

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](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.