



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Harvest Time

JEFFERSON CITY – This is the time of year when you see a lot of big farm trucks, combines and other agricultural equipment on the rural roads throughout Missouri as farmers are harvesting their crops and preparing for the next planting season. I'd just like to remind motorists to be on the lookout for these slow-moving vehicles and to be prepared to slow down or stop when approaching one. I know sometimes I get frustrated when I get stuck behind some big tractor while I'm trying to get somewhere in my old beater truck, and there are other times when I'm the person driving the tractor that's slowing traffic, so I understand both sides. Just use a little caution when traveling rural roads during harvest and please be patient with the farmers who are just trying to get to and from work.

I also want to remind farmers that they no longer have the option of buying two license plates for their larger vehicles. Senate Bill 930 changed the state law that used to give farmers the option of purchasing a second plate for the back of their vehicle. This was done because Missouri has reached reciprocal agreements with its neighboring states to allow the display of a license plate *only* on the front of the vehicle. Many of our farmers had complained they were being stopped by law enforcement authorities for not having front and rear license plates when traveling to other states. They may still be stopped occasionally when traveling outside of Missouri, but the law is now on their side.

The state Department of Economic Development has received a \$1-million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to develop a Strategic Disaster Economic Recovery Plan for northeast Missouri following this summer's flooding. The plan will offer a detailed look at the business and economic impacts of flooding in northeast Missouri and evaluate the best investments for the long-term health of the regional economy. Counties in the study area include Adair, Audrain, Clark, Lewis, Monroe, Ralls, Schuyler and Scotland in the 18th District.

The Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) will do much of the groundwork for the study, which will be released in 2009.

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.