



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
Week of Nov. 3, 2008**

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Veterans Day

JEFFERSON CITY – On November 11, it is our privilege to say “thank you” to all of America’s veterans, to let them know that we appreciate them for their service and honor them for their sacrifices. The price of freedom is high, and we cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it.

Throughout our nation’s history, America’s soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coastguardsmen have bravely answered the call to defend our freedom, to aid our friends and allies, and to turn back aggressors. We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 25 million veterans still living today.

A lot of folks have been calling my office lately asking about proposed changes in hunting rules from the Missouri Department of Conservation. Until now, landowners who had five acres or more qualified for no-cost deer and turkey permits. The Conservation Commission wants to increase the acreage from five to 80 or more contiguous acres in order for landowners to qualify for no-cost deer and turkey permits. Landowners with five acres or more would still qualify for no-cost small game hunting and fishing privileges. Folks who lease land would no longer qualify for no-cost permits or privileges under the proposed rule changes.

The Conservation Commission also plans to increase the cost of most resident hunting and fishing permits from two to three dollars.

The Conservation Department is opening a 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule changes on November 17th, although folks can begin submitting their comments

now by emailing Tim Smith at Tim.Smith@mdc.mo.gov or by sending a letter to the Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

I also want to offer my congratulations to all of the candidates who won in the November 4th election. I think everyone is just happy this long campaign season is finally over.

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.