



THE STOUFFER REPORT

Senator Bill Stouffer
Senate District 21

Capitol Building, Room 332
Jefferson City, MO 65101

A Weekly Column for the Week of:
March 17, 2008

Contact:
Aaron Baker (573) 751-1507

Lawmakers Reach the Halfway Mark

We have reached the halfway point of this year's legislative session. As much as we have been able to accomplish in 11 short weeks, we still have a lot of ground to cover.

Arguably the most important bill this year is [Senate Bill 711](#). This would change some of the ways property taxes are handled. I cannot tell you how many folks have come up to me and asked why their property tax bill was so high last year; I wish I could tell them – it seems these have grown out of control. And it is not just rural Missouri feeling the pain – it is everywhere.

Senate Bill 711 passed the Senate in late February and is now in the House. This legislation has tremendous support from Republicans and Democrats alike. I have no doubt it will be sent to the governor's desk for his signature.

Another topic that is being talked about nationwide is illegal immigration. There are a number of bills that would address this in Missouri. Two examples are [Senate Bill 750](#) and [Senate Bill 751](#). Senate Bill 750 would prohibit issuing driver's licenses to illegals. Senate Bill 751 would make applicants prove citizenship, permanent residence, or lawful presence in order to get state or local public benefits.

Over in the House, a bill that would put something on the November ballot is getting some floor time. [House Joint Resolution 41](#) would tell judges they cannot impose any new or higher tax, license, or fee. We hear all the time about "activist judges." This would be one way to keep them from digging into your pockets and taking your money.

There are a couple of agriculture bills I am watching. One is [Senate Bill 879](#). This would extend New Generation Cooperative Incentive tax credits, which encourage producer member investment into new generation processing entities. The other bill is [Senate Bill 898](#). It includes tax incentives for the use and distribution of E-85 and biodiesel fuels.

There is also a line in SB 898 that says ALL state tax credits would sunset on August 28th, 2011. A sunset to all tax credits in this state would have a huge impact on a variety of individuals, businesses, and agencies, including those who take care of the state's children and investors in community projects.

If you have questions about this or any other matter, you can reach Sen. Stouffer at (573) 751-1507 or bstouffer@senate.mo.gov. Thank you.

-END-