



Senator  
**Bill Stouffer**

**DISTRICT 21**

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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## **The Stouffer Report: Made in the U.S.A.**

“Made in America” is not an obsolete statement. In fact, American-made products are doing quite well. Some of them are being made in rural Missouri.

Take Alton Jones, a B.A.S.S. Elite Series pro angler from Waco, Texas. He used Ardent’s XS1000 baitcasting reel to win the 2008 Bassmaster Classic at Lake Hartwell, South Carolina. Ardent is a new American-owned company located in Macon. They produce the only brand of casting and spinning reels made and sold in the United States.

Can you believe that? Something as American as fishing and we get most of our fishing reels from other countries? I could not be happier to know not only is there a company right in our backyard that makes these fine reels, but they have already started winning major competitions.

When they asked Alton Jones about his choice of reels after winning the Bassmaster tournament, he said he has been using the Ardent XS1000 exclusively for over two years and it casts farther than any other reel on the market. He says the extra casting distance is what helped him win.

A lot of professional and amateur anglers have put away their foreign-made reels in exchange for something made in the U.S.A. In this case, the American-made product is made in Missouri. Plus, Ardent is showing the world a U.S. manufacturer can not only go head-to-head with foreign companies, but can win. The Bassmaster Classic also puts people and products on the map. Being associated with such a huge win will draw attention to the Ardent reel, Missouri, and the importance of manufacturing in the United States.

Imagine how many people were shocked to learn not all American flags are made in the U.S.A. We had a bill that addressed this. The governor signed [House Bill 1784](#) shortly after conclusion of the legislative session. This bill contains just one sentence, but it is important: This bill requires any Missouri or American flag flown on state property to be manufactured in the United States. Do you know who makes a lot of American flags? China. But their flags will not be seen flying over state buildings anymore.

Manufacturing really came into being during the early 1900's. Within 50 or 60 years, the U.S. became one of the biggest shipping countries in the world. Almost as quickly, we started to move these jobs overseas. Since then, some economists say the fabric of the American economy has declined. I would certainly love to see more manufacturing jobs come not just to America but to Missouri. They provide a steady and good income for hard-working families. Much like farming, these jobs build character and make people feel good about what they are doing.

Congratulations to Alton Jones for winning the 2008 Bassmaster Classic. And congratulations to Ardent for making a product in Macon, a product the world now recognizes as great.

*Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.*

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

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