



MISSOURI SENATE

John Griesheimer
26th Senate District

JEFFERSON CITY

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 227
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release
July 23, 2008

Contact: Chris Sutherland
(573) 751-3678

STATEMENT

By State Senator John Griesheimer On Pacific's Request to Use State's Rainy Day Fund for Flood Relief

JEFFERSON CITY – Sen. John Griesheimer today responded to Pacific Mayor Herbert Adam's request for the governor and state legislature to use the state's Rainy Day Fund to assist in a federal flood buyout program or to raise existing structures located in the flood plain in Pacific and other communities across the state affected by flooding and other recent natural disasters.

"I sincerely empathize with the residents of Pacific and many other Missouri communities whose homes and businesses were damaged during spring and summer flooding and by tornadoes and storms that occurred throughout the state. Following all of these weather-related events, I felt that the state responded quickly in these situations by providing a full slate of state resources and helping to secure federal disaster relief for affected areas.

"While the Rainy Day Fund technically may be tapped when the governor proclaims a budget need due to any disaster — and the measure is adopted by a two-thirds majority of the state legislature — the fund is really intended to augment the budget of state agencies that serve Missouri's 114 counties and more than 5.5 million residents. While the state's budget is in relatively good shape now, it's important the state continues to reserve the Rainy Day Fund for Missouri-wide emergency situations when our state budget is tight or stressed. Given the current economic climate, budget analysts have predicted that may occur as early as 2010, for which we will begin budgeting for this coming January. In addition, Rainy Day Fund expenditures must be repaid with interest within three years.

"The welfare of Pacific has always been a concern of mine, but for these reasons, I cannot support a request to tap into the Rainy Day Fund. However, I do support and would strongly advocate the Pacific mayor's suggestion of persuading the Federal Emergency Management Agency to reduce local government match requirements. "

-Sen. John Griesheimer

Sen. Griesheimer also noted once budget writers have determined revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year, he would be open to the possibility of using some state funds to help.

###