



January 10, 2008

## “Village Law” Repeal Moving Forward

Many in our state are forecasting that Lawmakers are too focused on the upcoming elections to actually get anything done this session. I have a more hopeful outlook.

As Senate President Pro Tem Michael Gibbons put it in his opening address this week: “We owe it to the people of Missouri to prove [these negative predictions] wrong.”

My first step in disproving the critics this session was to file Senate Bill 765, a measure that would repeal the “village law” enacted last August. This week, I made it my priority to get the bill heard in committee as soon as possible, to continue our progress on correcting this mistake.

Just to give a little background, the “village law” was contained in a large bill passed at the end of last session and allows even a single landowner to create a village that would essentially be independent of county regulations — this includes planning and zoning laws that were previously approved by county residents. In other words, essentially anyone, with relatively little effort, can stake out some property and create a village and, in many respects, make themselves “above the law.” I voted against the bill containing this dangerous provision last session and am working to repeal it this session with Senate Bill 765, which would also disincorporate any “village” incorporated after the bad law was enacted last August.

Senator Greisheimer chairs the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Local Government. I am grateful that Senator Greisheimer shares my commitment to repealing the bad law passed last session. He has agreed to hear the bill at the committee’s first meeting of the session on January 16. I also serve on this committee and am optimistic that my colleagues on the committee will vote in favor of the bill. Once the bill is voted out of committee, I will work to have it debated and passed on the Senate floor as soon as possible. I will keep you updated as the bill progresses through the legislative process.

I feel confident that the rest of my colleagues in both the Senate and House understand the vital importance of local control in the governing process and I am optimistic about passing SB 765 this session.

As always, I welcome your ideas, questions and concerns about Missouri government. You may contact me at the Capitol as follows: (573) 751-2234, [jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov](mailto:jack.goodman@senate.mo.gov) or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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