



April 24, 2008

Making Progress on Village Law Repeal

This week [Senate Bill 765](#), the Village Law Repeal that I sponsored in the Senate, took another step forward. After several weeks of waiting, SB 765 was heard in the House Local Government Committee.

The people of our district overwhelmingly support removing the Village Law from our statutes, and I am committed to passing this bill. Planning and zoning regulations passed by local voters to provide the same set of rules for all landowners in a county are now being undermined using the Village Law. The effect of the law has been to allow one landowner to create a village and use the power of a village to avoid the rules and regulations that everyone else has agreed to follow. Potentially, the statute passed last year could even be used by one landowner to incorporate his neighbor's unoccupied land into a village controlled by the first landowner.

The Village Law Repeal has been a highly sensitive issue in the Capitol this session. Anytime a group of legislators work to repeal something that was just passed in the preceding session, delicate issues will emerge. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Representative Jay Wasson, who will handle this bill for me on the House floor. Rep. Wasson, who represents parts of Stone, Lawrence and Christian counties, has been extremely influential in moving my bill through the House process, showing the skill and diplomacy required to repeal the Village Law. Rep. Wasson understands the sensitivity of this issue. Known for his integrity, strong work ethic, and practice of quietly solving problems without seeking praise or attention for himself, Rep. Wasson has used his positive relationships with legislators on both sides of this issue to keep this bill moving forward. Southwest Missouri is lucky to have a legislator as effective as Rep. Wasson spearheading the effort in the House to repeal last year's law.

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 or by writing to Senator Jack Goodman, Missouri State Capitol, Room 331, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

-END-