

For Immediate Release

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SHARING A VIEW OF THE STATE

Issues and Comments – 33rd Senatorial District

Senator

Chuck Purgason

The second regular session of your 94th General Assembly began its work for the New Year this past week. I look forward to working with the other members of the Senate and the House as well as the Governor as proposed legislation is brought forth for consideration.

It seems there are always many challenges as legislation and the process of building a state budget moves forward at its seemingly slow, grinding pace.

However, as legislators we must always remember that we are there to do our best for the people of our district and our state regardless of party or political motivation. Unlike the spew of partisan rhetoric that comes out of Washington, D.C., Missourians want their General Assembly to put forth the effort to rise above the ordinary partisan bickering and work to help make our state a better place to live and raise a family.

I am hopeful that your General Assembly will renew its effort to adopt policies that promote smaller government, less regulation and the good sense to keep spending under control. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am sure there will be numerous requests for spending that can not be sustained over the long haul.

Balancing our state budget can be an interesting process especially when dealing with some politicians that want to reinstate old programs or build new programs for their re-election campaign using money that does not exist. They seem to have little appreciation for the time-tested philosophy of living within your means when all they can think of is political fodder for the next campaign. Many politicians want to try to make as many friends as they can by buying votes and using your tax dollars to do it with and hopefully we can stop that practice and come up with a sound budget that leaves our state in better shape than the previous year. On the other hand, it is always a pleasure to work with conservative, common sense members of the Missouri Senate and House to adopt a balanced budget without a tax increase.

During the upcoming legislative session, your General Assembly will also renew its efforts to minimize illegal immigration in our state. Unfortunately, the lack of action on the part of our federal government to stop illegal immigration has left the states holding the bag. The famous Barney Fife Theory, “nip it in the bud,” should have been applied to this issue several years ago. It seems to me that immigrants should enter our country legally, get in line to become legal citizens and become tax paying citizens rather than being a part of the underground, above the law system we have today.

In addition, I look forward to renewing our efforts to protect our second amendment rights, make Missouri a safe place for our unborn children, fund our children’s education, provide help for our most vulnerable citizens, protect our property rights and work to make sure Missouri tax policy does not drive our elderly and disabled neighbors out of their homes.

Folks, once again it is time to pack my bags and head to Jefferson City for the regular legislative session. I have found an apartment and checked my air mattress for leaks, so I am ready to go. Fortunately, I was able to find an apartment only two blocks from the Capitol, which means I can save a few dollars of high priced gas by walking to work.

I also look forward to keeping you informed during the next few months as your General Assembly wrestles with many important issues that affect our families and our state. I hope each of you and your families enjoyed the blessings of Christmas and have a wonderful new year.

As always, I will listen to you and I appreciate any suggestions you may have that will help improve the lives of the people of this legislative district. You are welcome to contact me at: Missouri Senate, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 420, Jefferson City, MO 65101, my telephone number is 573-751-1882 or email at chuck.purgason@senate.mo.gov.