



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

Charlie Shields  
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## State Senator Charlie Shields Honored by Missouri Businesses

ST. LOUIS — State Sen. Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph, was honored last week by the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry on behalf of businesses for Sen. Shields' efforts in the Legislature to help businesses locate and expand here to benefit all the people of Missouri. Senator Shields serves as Majority Floor Leader of the Missouri Senate and was a key sponsor of the bill that became law creating a mega project tax credit plan. The measure, House Bill 2393, allowed the state to offer an incentive package that attempted to trigger an aircraft manufacturing company to invest \$300 million into building a passenger jet assembly plant at the Kansas City International Airport that would have employed 2,100 people.

Senator Shields said the incentive plan was unlike any other.

"It was a phenomenal deal for taxpayers, because we had safeguards in place to make sure the company created jobs before any tax dollars were issued through tax credits," Sen. Shields said. "Plus, it put Missouri on the map as a state that is serious about recruiting businesses that can bring thousands of new jobs to our educated workforce."

Unfortunately, the company, Bombardier, ultimately chose to remain in Canada, but Missouri businesses recognized the effort as the first step to making Missouri a top tier choice for industries.

"Sen. Shields proved we can create jobs using tax incentives while protecting taxpayers," Missouri Chamber President and CEO Dan Mehan said. "We are honoring Sen. Shields with our 2008 *Man in the Arena Award* for his efforts to take Missouri to the next step in supporting and recruiting job-creating businesses and industries in our state."

Senator Shields told those in attendance he appreciated the award.

"This was just the first attempt at bringing a multi-hundred million dollar investment that would create thousands of jobs to the state," Sen. Shields said. "I have always fought for job creation and with your continued support, we can build on the Quality Jobs Act and the Mega Project tax credit plan to make Missouri a national hub for industry and a well-educated workforce."

Shields is the presumptive Senate leader for the upcoming First Regular Session of the 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly that convenes on Jan. 7, 2009.

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