



**Senator Jim Lembke**  
1<sup>st</sup> Senate District

**MISSOURI SENATE**  
JEFFERSON CITY

Capitol Building, Room 428  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 31, 2009

# Senator Jim Lembke Votes Against CWIP Bill

*Senator Lembke Votes to Protect Consumer Interests*

JEFFERSON CITY — State Sen. Jim Lembke, R-St. Louis, is meeting with colleagues and constituents to get their thoughts about Ameren UE's proposal to build a second nuclear power plant. When asked why Sen. Lembke voted "no" in committee he replied, "I voted in the consumer's best interest. We simply need more safeguards to protect our citizens. My office and I were happy to speak with over 500 constituents who share my concerns with the issue."

"We are at a crossroads," Sen. Lembke said. "We hear every day the need for new energy sources, but the way we're being told it has to be paid for creates a challenge. We have to find a solution which protects consumers from rate hikes especially during tough economic times. Unfortunately we're hearing our electric rates are likely to go up whether or not we build this plant. The question is how much they will increase if we do not put a 30 year plan in place for our future."

Earlier this year, [Senate Bill 228](#) was heard in a Senate committee. A similar bill, [House Bill 554](#), is also moving through its respective committees. Both bills are being carefully looked over, not just by committee members, but several groups on both sides of the issue of eliminating the construction while in progress (CWIP) law enacted in the late 1970s that restricts utilities from raising rates to pay for large construction projects.

"While I understand the need for looking to the future in regard to where our energy comes from, I have to say I am against the CWIP bill in its current form," Sen. Lembke said. "My hope is we can come up with a solution which protects consumers, business and our energy independence before the legislative session ends."

Senate Bill 228 was voted out of the [Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee](#) this morning (3/31).

###

Contact: Kit Crancer  
(573) 751-2315

