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**Senator
Kevin Engler**

Capitol Report

Majority Floor Leader **3rd District**

*Senator Kevin Engler proudly represents the people of
Carter, Iron, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve,
Washington counties and part of Jefferson County*

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The Start of the Legislative Session

Lawmakers' return to Jefferson City was marked with quite a bit of pomp and circumstance as a total of 17 senators were sworn-in during the opening ceremony. I was included in this group, and was sworn in for my second term as your state senator. The event included the presence of visitors, and I am thankful for my friends and family who were able to attend to see me take the oath of office. I am looking forward to the work we will accomplish, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve you for four more years.

Today (Thursday), U.S. Senator Kit Bond visited the Capitol to speak to the Senate majority caucus and informed us that he is not planning to run for reelection in two years. Senator Bond has been committed to serving Missouri in both state and federal government for many years, and I admire his dedication to our state and thank him for his public service.

This session will be different for me than my previous sessions since I have taken on a new leadership role in the Missouri Senate. January 7th, the opening day of the First Regular Session of the 95th General Assembly, was the first time I acted officially as Majority Floor Leader, a position I was elected to by my caucus in November. Some of my new duties include setting the schedule of bills to be debated by the full body, the time allotted for floor debate on said bills, and the meeting times and dates of the Senate. I am looking forward to serving in this capacity as well as the work I will continue to do to serve the constituents of the 3rd District.

It is hard to predict how a legislative session will go, but so far, all signs point to a prevailing sense of bipartisan cooperation. This is true in the Legislature, where I look forward to working with my Senate and House colleagues from both sides of the aisle. I also know that

the relationship between the House and Senate will be bolstered by the fact that Representative Steve Tilley, who serves the counties of Perry, St. Francois, and Ste. Genevieve, will be serving in the House as Majority Floor Leader.

On January 12th, Governor-elect Jay Nixon will be sworn-in and officially begin his term as Missouri's governor. I am encouraged by his initial efforts to reach out to the Legislature in a bipartisan manner, and I am hopeful that this attitude of cooperation will continue. We have many priorities this session, including improving education, bolstering job creation, and improving access to healthcare. We are also facing a challenging year for our state's budget, as national economic factors influence the state's fiscal situation. I know we will get more accomplished if we can continue an open line of communication with the executive branch.

I am looking forward to a successful legislative session. If anyone makes a trip to Jefferson City, be sure to drop by my office and I would be happy to meet with you.

As always, I welcome your comments. You may reach me at 573-751-3455, send your e-mails to kevin.engler@senate.mo.gov or write to me at the Missouri Senate, State Capitol, Room 331, Jefferson City, MO 65101. If you know anyone who would like to receive these updates electronically, please [send me](#) an email.

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