



Senator Matt Bartle – Serving Jackson County

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[Move to Repeal Ethanol Mandate Begins](#)

Now that Senate committees have been named and assigned, work can begin on the legislation that has already been introduced in the Senate chamber. I have been anxiously awaiting an opportunity to present the repeal of the ethanol mandate passed in 2006 that requires most gasoline sold in Missouri to contain at least 10 percent ethanol (E-10). My bill, [Senate Bill 11](#), is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Agriculture Committee next week, beginning the process of hopefully getting this legislation to the governor's desk and ending the requirement of Missourians being forced to buy gasoline containing ethanol.

The ethanol mandate marks an ill-advised entry into the private energy market, which encourages farmers to grow corn for fuel instead of corn for food, swelling prices and hurting Missouri families struggling to pay for groceries. It also raises feed corn prices for livestock farmers, dealing a blow to the state's agriculture industry—an industry we should be protecting, not damaging. I cannot think of a worse time to make things any more financially difficult for Missourians, all of whom are affected by food prices and are struggling more than ever to make ends meet.

[A recent study](#) by the Show-Me Institute on the economic impact of the E-10 mandate reports that the cost to taxpayers will likely result in a net loss to Missouri consumers of hundreds of millions of dollars over the next 10 years.

The ethanol mandate has been in effect over a year now. I did not agree with it when it passed in 2006, and I do not agree with it now. The principle behind the mandate,

this idea of stifling competition and propping up certain industries more than others, is decidedly against this country's free market tradition. By getting in the business of picking 'winners' and 'losers,' state government is hindering innovation and the development of other technologies. Now is the time to pass a repeal of this mandate and remove the shackles from the free market.

If you have any comments or questions about this week's column or any other matter involving state government, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach my office by e-mail at matt_bartle@senate.mo.gov or by phone at (888) 711-9278. My web address is <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bartle>.

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