

For Immediate Release April 10, 2009

## Green's Bi-Partisan Metropolitan Sewer District Legislation Passes Senate

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – State Senator Timothy P. Green (D-Spanish Lake) succeeded today in the Missouri Senate with the passage of Senate Bill 172, a bill that prevents the Metropolitan Sewer District from charging customers who receive no sanitary water services if the district does not directly provide sanitary sewer services and if the storm water runoff does not flow to a sewer maintained by MSD.

Senate Bill 172, co-sponsored by Sen. Jane Cunningham (R-Chesterfield) was proposed in response to the concerns of over 300 North St. Louis County residents. Numerous constituents have telephoned, e-mailed and written letters to Sen. Green expressing their strong support of the legislation, and their outrage at being billed for services they are unable to benefit from or utilize. "MSD is effectively charging a fee/tax on people that can not use the services," said Sen. Green, "that is wrong and the legislature must act to provide tax relief to residents are being charged for services they can not use."

Sen. Green worked diligently with MSD to resolve these concerns which included residents of West St. Louis County. Today on the Senate floor, Sen. Green expressed his gratitude to MSD for their cooperation in providing information to those affected by the charges, "I thank the Metropolitan Sewer District for working with those affected by this situation as it shows their willingness to educate the taxpayers." Prior to passage, Sen. Green held two town hall meetings with North St. Louis County residents where MSD addressed their concerns.

The Missouri Senate passed SB 172 with a favorable vote of 30 to 3. The legislation now advances to the House where it will be handled by State Representative Gina Walsh (D-Bellefontaine Neighbors). "The Senate spoke clearly today when they passed this important bi-partisan tax relief legislation," Rep. Walsh, "I will work with my House colleagues toward passage of this important legislation that rights this wrong, where residents are paying for services, without access or benefit to those services."