

THE GREEN WIRE

SENATOR TIMOTHY P. GREEN - DISTRICT 13

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For Immediate Release

Investing in Missouri's Energy Future and Green Jobs

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Today, State Senator Timothy P. Green (D-Spanish Lake) was appointed to the Joint Committee on Missouri's Energy Future consisting of five members from the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate and five members from the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, established by House Bill 734 (2009).

Missouri was the first state west of the Mississippi River to produce coal commercially, but output today is minimal and according to the U.S. Department of Energy almost eighty percent of Missouri's energy comes from coal and petroleum, with the remaining twenty percent of energy in the form of natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric, and renewable energy.

"Today, ninety-four percent of Missouri's energy sources are imported from outside the state and almost all occur in the form of fossil fuels according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and this importing energy costs Missourians approximately \$13 billion each year." said Sen. Green.

The committee will prepare and submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2009. The report on Missouri's energy needs will determine a strategy that ensures a plentiful, affordable, and clean supply of electricity that will meet the needs of Missouri residents and businesses for the next 25 years by further ensuring that Missourians continue to benefit from low rates.

Curbing global warming is the work of a generation, and specifically, the work of millions of people, performing the jobs needed to build the green economy. Clean energy investments will create opportunities for welders, sheet metal workers, machinists, truck drivers, and others. In Missouri, there are nearly 270,000 green jobs in a representative group of job areas that could see job growth or wage increases by putting global warming solutions to work. Transitioning Missouri to a clean energy economy will create jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

"Actions taken by the state, commerce and industry and by citizens to reduce the rate of energy consumption will financially benefit Missourians while simultaneously reducing the production of greenhouse gasses and other contaminants." said Sen. Green. "Missouri can be a leader among the states by creating new green jobs and increasing our in-state energy capacity too as a national survey of wind energy reported that Missouri added the third-highest amount of wind farm capacity in the nation during the second quarter of 2009."