



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of March 9, 2009**

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# MOHELA Redux

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JEFFERSON CITY – This week I presented my resolution to use federal stimulus dollars to fund college construction projects to the Senate Rules, Joint Rules, Resolutions and Ethics Committee. Senate Concurrent Resolution 15 urges the Governor and the Office of Administration to deposit money designated for capital improvements from the federal stimulus package into the Lewis & Clark Discovery Fund. This fund would be distributed to colleges and universities to complete the projects outlined in the Lewis & Clark Discovery Initiative, including Pershing Hall at Truman State University, the Plant Science Research Center in Mexico and the Greenley Learning and Discovery Park in Novelty.

My resolution to use federal stimulus dollars to continue these projects is necessary because the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority (MOHELA) has been unable to meet its quarterly payments to the state as required in a 2007 bill signed by the previous governor. I did not support the MOHELA scheme because I was worried lawmakers were making promises they could not keep, just like the failed 15-year highway plan.

Because MOHELA has been unable to meet its obligations to the state, Governor Nixon was forced to postpone some of the campus construction projects earlier this year. By using federal stimulus dollars to complete these projects, we can fulfill our promises to communities across the state. These projects would create good-paying jobs throughout the state at a time when families are struggling to make ends meet due to the financial meltdown.

This week the Senate General Laws Committee approved my bill creating the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. The purpose of this board would be to provide standardization in terminology for maps and publications.

Surprisingly, most features on the land are not yet named, but surveys for legal boundaries and litigation over those boundaries – and what names people attach to them – continue. The current Missouri Board on Geographic Names was established by executive order in 1995. Senate Bill 480 would place this existing structure into state statute.

I was pleased to introduce the Class 2A state football champions to the Missouri Senate this week. The Clark County Indians had a perfect 15-0 record this year. We also welcomed Debbie Sears' government class from Scotland County to our Capitol office, as well as members of Preferred Family Health Care in Kirksville and Hannibal.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any other issue, give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an email at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.