



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Wes Shoemyer
18th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 434
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the
Week of March 30, 2009**

**Capitol Office
(573) 751-7852**

Jobs & Tax Credits

JEFFERSON CITY – We spent a lot of time this week on a big jobs bill that would expand the successful Quality Jobs Program. A handful of senators are trying to use the jobs bill to reform our state tax credit system, which might be a worthy effort in itself, but the two issues should be considered separately. The House passed an expansion of the Quality Jobs Act early in the session, but the bill has stalled in the Senate because of the tax credit issue. Missouri families are having a tough time making ends meet right now, and I think we should do everything in our power to help create jobs in Missouri. I would hate to see what seems to be political posturing by some in the Senate end up killing the jobs bill which will possibly create jobs in our area. The sponsors of the jobs bill will roll out another version next week, and hopefully we can pass this thing and send it back to the House to work out the differences between the two versions.

The other big issue we've got to tackle in the final six weeks of the legislative session is the state budget. The House last week approved a \$22.8 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2010, but the version the Republican majority forced through the House is a mess. For example, House Republicans refused to include the governor's proposal to expand health care for thousands of Missouri families. The governor negotiated a deal with the Missouri Hospital Association which would send fees levied on hospitals to the state Medicaid program, adding 34,800 parents to the Medicaid program and adding 22,000 children to the state Children's Health Insurance Program. This innovative agreement would not cost a dime in taxpayer money while providing health care to thousands of Missourians. For some reason known only

to them, House Republicans said no. I'm confident we can fix that in a bipartisan manner when the Senate considers the budget.

This week the Senate approved my bill (SB 480) to create the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. The Board will review proposals for changes in the names of geographic features and places and make recommendations to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. This bill basically just codifies in statute an executive order issued in 1995.

This week the House took up a couple of bills of interest to folks in rural areas. Senate Bill 293 exempts tractors used in parades from width, length, height and license plate requirements as long as the tractors are driven by a licensed driver during daylight hours.

Senate Bill 398 deals with property lines. Right now property owners can post purple marks on trees and fence posts around an area to prohibit trespassing. This bill allows posts to be capped since paint tends to chip off of metal posts.

We welcomed a number of visitors to our Capitol office this week, including Heather DeMint, Donna Evans and Betty Clark from the United Credit Union in Mexico, American Cancer Society volunteers from the district, and Mike Schwend, CEO of Preferred Family Healthcare of Kirksville.

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, or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.