



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of May 11, 2009**

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# That's A Wrap

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JEFFERSON CITY – The First Regular Session of the 95th Missouri General Assembly concluded at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. As I mentioned last week, the final days of the legislative session see a flurry of bills and resolutions coming to the floor as lawmakers try every conceivable way to get their legislative priorities approved, and that's just what happened this week. The Senate worked late into the night every night this week and sent a bushel basket of bills to the governor to be signed into law. Several measures I sponsored were included in that basket.

The resolution I sponsored this session to urge Congress to support the continuation of horse processing in the United States was approved by both chambers and sent to the governor. This resolution also asks Congress to offer incentives to help create horse processing plants throughout the country, and oppose any legislation introduced in Congress that would restrict horse processing.

The legislature also approved and sent to the governor my bill changing the procedure for detaching a territory from a public water supply district. When a petition for detachment is submitted to the circuit court by someone other than the district's board of directors, the district will be named as a defendant and a copy of the petition will be served upon the district by certified or registered mail at least 35 days before the hearing. Current law requires notice of the petition to detach to be published in a newspaper in each county containing any portion of the proposed territory. The act instead requires that notice be published in a newspaper in the county in which the hearing will be held as well as in a newspaper with circulation in the proposed territory.

Lawmakers also approved and sent to the governor my Senate Bill 480, which creates the Missouri Board on Geographic Names within the office of the Secretary of State charged with the following duties:

- Evaluate proposals for changes in names of geographical features and places.
- Make official recommendations to and cooperate with the United States Board on Geographic names.
- Maintain a list of advisers who have special interest and knowledge in Missouri history, geography or culture and consult with such advisers.
- Develop and revise state priorities for geographic records projects.

The legislature approved an economic development bill on the final day of session that will help create jobs to get our state economy moving forward. During debate on the bill in the early morning hours of the last day, I voiced my objection to an increase in the land assemblage tax credit from \$10 to \$20 million. This measure basically benefits one big developer in St. Louis. At the same time, the state is providing just \$66 million for our largest industry – agriculture. So we're spending up to \$20 million on an 80 acre parcel in the big city but just three times that amount for all of the farmers in our state. I think that's outrageous. On the other hand, I have been promised that a major agriculture bill will be the first one out of the gate next year. Rural lawmakers will have to get our heads together to come up with issues we all can agree to support. I look forward to getting together with agriculture groups and my colleagues in the legislature over the summer to try to find issues of common agreement to move agriculture forward and to secure profitability for our family farmers.

We welcomed several visitors to our Capitol office this week, including Susan Purdy, a group of third grade students from Madison and a fourth grade class from Canton.

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.