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Legislative Highlights from the Missouri Senate – Week of Feb. 2-6, 2009

Dear friends:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce a weekly Capitol Review to keep you updated on the various highlights of the legislative session. As always, feel free to contact my office if you have questions or concerns about any facet of the Missouri Legislature.

Last week, I successfully passed [Senate Resolution 210](#) relating to the proper disposal of your analog television sets should you choose not to obtain the converter box available through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Most of us have seen the ads about the digital converter boxes that must be used on our old televisions after February 17, 2009 — this deadline has now been extended by Congress to June 12, 2009.

Televisions may contain various toxic substances, including lead, chromium and mercury, among others, which are harmful to both human health and the environment. The good news is that many components of your old television are recyclable.

The Department of Natural Resources has more information on this topic and may be contacted at 1-800-361-4827, or visit their website at www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/computerlist.htm for a list of e-recyclers.

In addition, I am continuing the fight to keep the funding for the Ellis Fischel Cancer Center. Governor Nixon has announced funding cuts which were already allocated towards a building project which would mean better facilities and technology for cancer patients in the area and all across our state.

I have met with officials from the University of Missouri Medical Center to talk about the Ellis Fischel budget cuts and to work out details involving a transfer of the Mid-MO Mental Health Hospital to the University.

In other news, the Missouri Senate has chosen to forgo the use of laptop computers in the chamber for at least another session. Debate on [Senate Resolution 141](#), which would have allowed the use of laptops on the Senate floor, has ended as a stalemate and will most likely not be taken up again this session.

Committee hearings also continued as legislators work to bring bills to the floor for discussion and debate by the Senate.

[Senate Bill 65](#), sponsored by Sen. Scott T. Rupp (R-Wentzville), was the subject of a hearing in the [Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee](#). The bill would expand the state's No-Call list by including cell phone numbers and prohibiting solicitations via fax, text-message or graphic imaging.

Also, in the spirit of bipartisanship, sponsor Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin) and co-sponsor Sen. Joan Bray (D-St. Louis) introduced [SB 313](#), legislation that creates funds within the state treasury to receive and retain any funds provided under the federal economic stimulus plan. The purpose of the special fund is to provide transparency and accountability to the taxpayer to know how and where these funds are spent.

These are just a few of the issues the state Senate is working on to better the lives of Missourians. For a more detailed report of all Missouri legislation, visit www.senate.mo.gov.

I will continue to keep you updated on bills being introduced that may be of interest to you as well as upcoming events here at the Capitol.

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