

State Senator Kurt U. Schaefer - District 19

Capitol Press Release

PHONE: (573) 751-3931
Email: kurt.schaefer@senate.mo.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2009

Senate Approves Bill to Keep Missouri from Being Radioactive Waste Pipeline to the West *New Fees on Nuclear Waste Will Make Missouri Less Likely Route*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – The Missouri Senate approved a bill today that will prevent Missouri from being the most common route for the shipment of nuclear waste. Senator Kurt Schaefer said he sponsored the bill because a federal mandate means that Missouri will see more shipments of nuclear waste sooner than expected.

“In the best interest of our citizens, we need to equalize the fee structure for radioactive waste coming through Missouri,” Schaefer said. “We don’t want Missouri to be the radioactive waste pipeline for the country.”

Currently, Missouri charges no fee for the transport of radioactive waste products, which is seen by some shippers as an incentive to move their trucks and trains through the state.

The Department of Energy has mandated that by 2010, all repositories for nuclear waste be moved to Yucca Mountain, Nevada, designating I-70 and I-80 as preferred routes.

Senate Bill 100, sponsored by Sen. Schaefer, creates a fee charged to shippers for all trucks or trains carrying radioactive waste through the state. Missouri’s surrounding states, including Iowa, charge similar fees for nuclear waste shipments on their highways.

The bill will require all fees collected under the proposal to be deposited into the Environmental Radiation Monitoring Fund, and will be used to pay for highway patrol escorts of waste shipments, monitoring the radiation shipments, and training for state and local emergency responders in the event an accident involving a radioactive shipment would occur.

“These fees will help prevent shippers from choosing Missouri over any other state,” Sen. Schaefer said, “And they will ensure that our emergency responders are well-trained and ready to act under adverse situations.”

###