



Senator
Bill Stouffer

DISTRICT 21

Senator Bill Stouffer – Cultivating Rural Missouri.

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The Stouffer Report: Combating Terrorists or Americans?

Independent thinking is being taken to task. And this is not coming from a secret, federal or foreign government operation. It is coming from our own state.

"[The Modern Militia Movement](#)" is a report that was recently issued by the [Missouri Information Analysis Center](#) (MIAC). Part of the report reads as follows: "Due to the current economical [sic] and political situation, a lush environment for militia activity has been created. Unemployment rates are high, as well as costs of living expenses. Additionally, President Elect Barrack [sic] Obama is seen as tight on gun control and many extremists fear that he will enact firearms confiscations."

The report goes on to tie militia members with supporters of third-party political candidates, conspiracy theorists and anti-abortion activists. The report reads: "Militia members most commonly associate with 3rd party political groups. "It is not uncommon for militia members to display Constitutional Party, Campaign for Liberty or Libertarian material." It also points to owning a "Don't Tread on Me" flag or any anti-income tax information as signs of militia involvement.

The MIAC has only been around for a few years. It is the result of the attacks on America on September 11, 2001. It is one of 58 so-called "fusion centers" across the country that were started by the federal [Department of Homeland Security](#) to gather intelligence that law enforcement officials can use in the fight against terrorism. The director of Homeland Security said these fusion centers are proving themselves to be vital by putting this type of information together. But others are questioning whether or not MIAC, and others like it, have gone too far. The [American Civil Liberties Union](#) (ACLU) also says the report "crosses

the line.”

While the folks at MIAC defended their report, the director of the [Missouri Department of Public Safety](#) apologized for the way the information was disseminated and received. In Texas, a similar report was recently released. Their “[Prevention Awareness Bulletin](#)” wanted authorities to report the activities of local anti-war protest groups, Muslim civil rights organizations and lobbying groups.

Needless to say, this is very troubling to me. There are a lot of us in rural Missouri who want the government to stay as far away from our lives as possible. Law enforcement officials know who the bad guys are, they should not be wasting their time going after groups of people just because they like a third-party candidate for president or dislike taxes.

My staff and I have been taking a lot of calls about this report, and we hear you loud and clear. There are a lot of us in the Senate and the House who are looking to see what scrutiny may need to be put on the Public Safety Department and Homeland Security to ensure they are not abusing power or using MIAC as a political tool.

Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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