

DISTRICT OFFICE
PO Box 62
St. Peters, MO 63376
Telephone (636) 294-2526



CAPITOL OFFICE
State Capitol, Room 433
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Telephone (573) 751-1141
Fax (573) 522-3383
tom.dempsey@senate.mo.gov

MISSOURI SENATE
Majority Caucus Whip
Tom Dempsey
District 23

Capitol Report – January 29, 2009

This week I was named by Senate Leader Charlie Shields as one of thirteen Senators to serve on the newly created Senate Select Committee on Oversight of Federal Stimulus. The committee was developed so that if the need arose, the Legislature could act quickly to modify state laws that may currently hinder our ability to gain preference when the funds are distributed. With the proposed package estimated at almost \$1 trillion, we need to make sure that as many of these federal tax dollars as possible get invested back into Missouri.

The decision to pass the federal stimulus package ultimately rests with the federal legislators in Washington, and I urge you to contact your Senators to express any concerns you may have. Following is their contact information:

Senator Kit Bond
700 Bonhomme, Suite 615, St. Louis, 63105
314-725-4484
Website: <http://bond.senate.gov>

Senator Claire McCaskill
5850A Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, 63112
314-367-1364
Website: <http://mccaskill.senate.gov>

Setting aside my own misgivings about a federal bailout package, it is my responsibility, as a member of this committee, to study strategies for securing the maximum federal stimulus plan dollars for Missouri. We must keep in mind though, that since this federal funding will only be a one-time occurrence, it must be used to incubate strong, steady, long-term job growth. Using the money for small “pet” projects will only have a temporary effect. Similarly, we must ensure that the programs this money funds will not spawn hidden future costs.

The Committee’s first meeting was held this week with testimony given by representatives of the Governor’s office, Lieutenant Governor’s office and members of the Congressional delegation. The bipartisan panel must make its recommendations to the full Senate by March 12, 2009.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on this or any other issues of concern to you. I appreciate and welcome your comments.

Committees:

Appropriations • Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment
Health, Mental Health, Seniors and Families
Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government, Vice-Chair
Joint Committee on MO Health Net