

# State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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## Worst Ice Storm Brought Out The Best in All

Late January's severe ice storm — the worst many recall in recent memory — dealt a severe blow to southeast Missouri, totally destroying the infrastructure that delivers electricity to southeast Missouri and leaving nearly everyone without electric power for several days. Barry Hart, the CEO of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives, told me this was the worst storm to ever hit the electric cooperative service area.

The recovery effort from the weather-related emergency continues, with hundreds of people from state and local agencies, electric utilities, the National Guard and scores of other organizations still working diligently to assist local residents. The progress has been swift, and most residents will have power restored by Feb. 12 — sooner than expected due to the extraordinary efforts of many to expedite the storm recovery relief operations. I want to particularly thank the excellent work of our southeast Missouri electric cooperatives and AmerenUE throughout this crisis and for working in partnership to restore electric power to all areas affected by the widespread power outages. Hundreds of crews from Missouri, Iowa, Mississippi and Louisiana joined in this massive undertaking. It was a huge job and everyone involved should be commended for their outstanding work. When you see any of these workers or the many others who are working in earnest to help our communities, I hope you will tip your hat, wave to them, or say thanks for their dedication and hard work.

In talking with several folks around the area, many have shared stories of how the storm brought into focus what's really important in life. We are a hardy and resilient bunch in the bootheel, and again I am so very proud of the way our area responded to this crisis with resilience and great kindness.

I will continue to keep you posted on any federal or local disaster relief that may come our way due to the extensive damage caused by this powerful storm. In the meantime, anyone who may still need assistance or need lodging in one of the remaining shelters, please call 2-1-1. Also, as always, please feel free to call my office at 1-877-291-5584 if you have any questions or concerns.

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