

# State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

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



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## A Warm & Hearty Thank You from Southeast Missouri

They say patience is a virtue, and around southeast Missouri for the last three weeks or so it has been a real necessity, too. As our area made great progress toward cleanup and recovery from damages from late January's devastating ice storm, we got another wallop with high winds and rains on Feb. 11, which caused delays in returning service to several thousand residents who remained without power. Thanks to the literally thousands of people who came to our aid throughout this weather-related crisis — including hundreds of linemen who came from other states to join our electric utilities in rebuilding and repairing our nearly destroyed electric infrastructure — nearly everyone is close to being back to full electric service and working toward recovering from this crippling storm.

At last count, two shelters remained open as of Feb. 13, with about 21 clients — down from dozens of shelters that housed more than 2,000 people in the days just after the storm hit. Several feeding shelters were also still open as of Feb. 13 and will remain so for as long as necessary. I definitely want to thank the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and all of the state and local service organizations that worked to feed, house and support our citizens throughout this crisis.

This storm, which by all accounts was one of the worst of its kind anyone can remember, brought out the very best in people in southeast Missouri and reminded me each day of why I am so proud to call this area home. I witnessed so many people working tirelessly and without complaint and with great concern to restore our communities, and I can't say thank you enough to all of you for your efforts to help our citizens during this time.

As you probably know, our area is awaiting a decision by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to decide if it will provide federal disaster assistance to the 22 counties that were impacted by this devastating storm. We are definitely going to need this type of assistance to recover financially from the damages caused by this mega-storm, and I do pray we get an answer soon. In the meantime, anyone who may still need

assistance of any kind, please call 2-1-1. Also, as always, feel free to call my office at 1-877-291-5584 if you have any questions or concerns.

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