

*Nothing is politically right  
that is morally wrong.*



*Free and fair discussion  
is the firmest friend of truth.*

MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Sen. John Griesheimer Warns Constituents Anti-Energy Ads Lie**

### *Senator Defends Vote to Continue Energy Discussion*

JEFFERSON CITY, MO – Alerting consumers to learn both sides of the story when it comes to electric production and utilities rates in Missouri, Senator John Griesheimer, R-Washington, today warned of a “smear” campaign orchestrated by special interest groups that are distorting the truth by claiming massive hikes in electric rates are just around the corner if the Missouri Legislature supports building a new electric plant in Missouri. Griesheimer says the special interest groups’ aim is to scare citizens.

“It is shameful what they are doing because Missourians enjoy some of the lowest electric rates in the nation,” he said. “One constituent shared that her annual rate had only increased \$79 over 19 years.”

The “smear” campaign targets Griesheimer’s vote to advance a Senate Committee Substitute to [Senate Bill 228](#) out of a Senate committee earlier this week. The measure now may come up for debate by the full chamber. Griesheimer said he voted to move the bill forward because the discussion of whether or not Ameren UE should be able to increase costs to ratepayers to build a second nuclear power plant at their Callaway location is one that cannot be ignored.

Griesheimer said Missouri is running out of power, stating there are two ways the state can address it. The first option, he said, is the state can choose to support the building of a new electric plant to generate power in Missouri that would create jobs and ensure future electric production. The second option, according to Griesheimer, is that the state can choose to not support the building of a new electric plant and instead buy power from other states at higher costs, meaning higher rates for consumers as well as making them susceptible to blackouts.

“I want my kids and grandkids to have affordable electric power for their futures,” he said. “That is why I believe doing nothing is not an option. That is why I am seeking a compromise for a new plant to be built.”

Griesheimer also noted that new federal regulations make a new coal plant unfeasible, adding that wind and solar options cannot meet all the state’s needs. Griesheimer said that leaves nuclear energy as the best option to increase power production in-state.

Ameren UE estimates the cost to build a new nuclear power plant at \$6 billion. Griesheimer said that amount equals the company’s net worth. He said the project is impossible without the company being about to prove to lenders that they can repay a construction loan in a reasonable time.

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Griesheimer said ratepayers should also know that any increases in rates to help pay for the construction of the new plant would not happen unless a decision was made to build the plant. Plus, under the bill, the plant must be permitted by the Public Service Commission to be built.

Griesheimer said that it is important for constituents to know that his vote was not in support of the current bill, but rather to allow the Senate to continue to talk about the issue. He called the bill “doomed for failure” this year, but noted many bills are discussed for years before a resolution is reached.

“The bill was changed in committee, and I believe that it does not favor consumers enough at this point,” he said. “But I also believe it is important to continue to discuss this issue so we can make sure we have vetted all ideas so that when and if the time is right to make this move for Missouri, we will have the best plan available to protect consumers.”

Griesheimer asked constituents for their patience, as his phone lines and email have been “choked” with contacts from people outside the district. He said he wants to discuss the issue with local residents.

As far as his vote to advance the bill to possibly be discussed by the full Senate, Griesheimer said he did what he thought was right.

“In my 27 years of public service I have always given you the facts, even if they weren’t what you wanted to hear,” he said. “These are the facts: if the majority listens to a special interest group playing on their fears with false information, then Missouri is heading down the same road as California. That road is the worst case scenario for Missourians because it means we will have limited electric production and limited electric production means higher electric rates for everyone.”

To learn more visit [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov), “key word” search SB228.

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