



May 27, 2009



Creating Quality Jobs

The 2009 legislative session ended on May 15th. Over the next several weeks, I will be highlighting some of the major accomplishments of the session. While this year was not an easy one, I am pleased with the work we completed to make tomorrow better than today for our state and local communities.

One major issue this session was economic development. With the national economy taking a serious hit, we worked to better policies in our state to attract companies, keep quality jobs, and help Missouri families during these tough times. We worked on a comprehensive economic development measure to keep and create jobs in our state and help Missourians get back to work. First and foremost, we protected taxpayers with **NO NEW TAXES**.

House Bill 191 includes an expansion of the Quality Jobs Act, an incentive program that incents companies to create new jobs that pay above the average county wage and at least pay half of an employee's health insurance premiums. We increased the cap on this program from \$60 million to \$80 million and removed the cap for high impact and technology companies, encouraging more growth in our state.

Other expansions for important employer-friendly programs include cap increases for New Markets Incentives for companies in distressed areas from \$15 million to \$25 million. The bill also expands the cap on BUILD (Business Use Incentives for Large-Scale Development) Tax Credits from \$15 million to \$25 million. This program targets large manufacturing and processing industries. One expected recipient is Monsanto, which has expressed interest in adding up to 2,000 jobs. The bill's provisions also include measures expected to encourage the expansion of high-tech battery makers which could create between 2,000 and 5,000 jobs for Missourians.

House Bill 191 also expands the Department of Economic Development's job training program, which helps pay for job training in new or expanding industries. The expansion allows the program to apply to pre-employment training. We also created the Build America Bond Program to allow for more efficient use of the bond provisions in the federal stimulus act.

In my future Capitol Reports, I will expand on additional work we completed in House Bill 191 including important reforms to increase accountability in Missouri's tax credit system and bettering the economic environment for our small businesses. The bill awaits the governor's signature, and I will keep you up-to-date on how these incentives and reforms will help business throughout Southeast Missouri and our state.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions, and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.senate.mo.gov/crowell>.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)