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Sen. David Pearce Speaks at Environmental Awareness Day

JEFFERSON CITY— Senator David Pearce (R-Warrensburg) today spoke at a kick-off press conference in front of the Johnson County Courthouse for Citizens for Environmental Action, a group that is organizing a campaign to increase public awareness about climate change and urge policy changes at all levels of government. The campaign began with the press conference and will end with a week-long series of events beginning Oct. 24.

While speaking at the press conference, Sen. Pearce touched on some of the energy conservation legislation recently passed by the Missouri General Assembly. This includes the Missouri Energy Efficiency Investment Act, which allows electric companies to implement and recover costs related to Public Service Commission-approved energy efficiency programs and requires any appliance purchased by the state until August 28, 2011, to be an Energy Star-rated appliance, unless cost-prohibitive ([SB 376](#) – 2009). He also talked about [SB 1181](#) (2008), which strengthens the minimum energy efficiency standard as it pertains to certain state buildings and creates an income tax deduction for a home energy audit and/or the cost of implementing any recommendations. Sen. Pearce also discussed the \$5 million in state funding provided to Amtrak this year for its new construction project that will add a 9,000-foot railroad track along the route used by Amtrak *Missouri River Runner* trains between Kansas City and St. Louis.

This year, Sen. Pearce handled the passed and signed [HB 883](#) in the Senate, which allows individuals to receive discounted loans through the Missouri Linked Deposit program when installing alternative energy-producing equipment. The program also makes loans available to businesses producing energy for sale or for their own use. In addition, he sponsored [SB 543](#), which if passed, would have created a state income tax credit for eligible costs incurred by taxpayers in making homes reach certain bench marks for green building standards.

“We have a moral responsibility to be good stewards of the natural resources we’ve been given, and it’s important we do what we can to help preserve those resources, including exploring alternative forms of energy,” Sen. Pearce said. “As the country works toward energy independence, Missouri strives to be at the forefront in the development of alternative energy sources.”

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