

*Nothing is politically right
that is morally wrong.*



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

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**Chair of Senate Committee Calls Hearing to Inquire about
Delayed Release of DNR Lake Ozark E. coli Reports**
Senator Brad Lager Hopes Hearing will Help Restore Public's Trust

JEFFERSON CITY — The chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment announced today that the committee will hold a hearing to review the circumstances that led to a nearly month delay in the release of public health reports concerning the Lake of the Ozarks. Chairman of the committee, Sen. Brad Lager, R-Savannah, said it is appropriate for the Senate committee to look into the delay because of public concern, the possible danger to public health as well as the impact on Missouri tourism.

"We all have constituents who enjoy Missouri's lakes and their health and safety should never be at risk," Lager said. "In order to restore integrity and trust in the Department of Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment will begin a thorough review of the department's recent actions. This is important to ensure public safety and for a healthy, vibrant tourism industry. We will be cooperating with the Attorney General's office and although we do not anticipate the need, we have been assured this committee will have the authority to compel(subpoena) witnesses if necessary."

The *Kansas City Star* initially reported last week(7/15) that the Department of Natural Resources failed to release a report that demonstrated E. coli reached unsafe levels at the Lake of Ozarks in late May. The executive director of the group that performs the sampling on behalf of the department brought the delayed release of the report to light. The report, once made public on June 26, showed E. coli was above safe levels in more than half of the 60 samples taken in late May at the Lake of Ozarks.

"I support Sen. Lager's decision to look into what happened," said Senate Leader Charlie Shields, R-St. Joseph. "The Department of Natural Resources has a proud tradition in our state and I believe this hearing will help restore the public's trust in their actions as a department when it comes to public health and the environment."

Lager said a public hearing will be set once preliminary information is collected. He also said a list of the individuals the committee will seek testimony from will soon be released.

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