



MISSOURI SENATE  
JEFFERSON CITY

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## **Senator Frank Barnitz Announces Approval of Bill to Recognize Methane as a Renewable Energy Resource**

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JEFFERSON CITY – Senator Frank Barnitz, D-Lake Spring, today announced that the Senate has approved legislation he sponsored to include methane from farm animal waste as a renewable energy resource for purposes of the Renewable Energy Portfolio requirement. [Senate Bill 848](#) received Senate approval yesterday (04/01/10).

In 2008, voters approved Proposition C, also called the Clean Energy Initiative, to create a renewable energy standard in the state. The standard requires utilities to get 15 percent of their electricity from renewable resources by 2021. Resources include solar energy, hydropower and biomass burning.

Senate Bill 848 requires the Public Service Commission and the Department of Natural Resources to include methane generated from farm animal waste as a renewable energy source for purposes of meeting the state's requirement. Anaerobic digestion of wastes provides biogas, which contains about 60 percent methane that can be used to generate electricity.

New technologies allow properly processed animal waste to provide a reliable and clean source of electrical and heat energy. Several countries, including Germany and Sweden, use biogas as a notable power source. Researchers estimate it would take the waste of 6 million cows to fulfill the needs of 1 million homes — approximately six cows per home.

“There are many types of renewable energy resources out there and utility companies should be able to utilize all of these methods to meet the standards approved by the voters,” said Sen. Barnitz. “This is a cost-saving measure because this is a resource that can be produced inside our state, lessening our dependence on outside energy production.”

Senate Bill 848 now moves to the House for similar consideration.

**To hear audio of Sen. Barnitz discussing Senate Bill 848, [click here](#).**

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