



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of July 5, 2010**

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# Special Session on Hold

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JEFFERSON CITY – The Special Session called by Governor Nixon has stalled in the last couple of weeks. The governor called lawmakers back to the state Capitol June 24th to pass a package of incentives to entice the Ford Motor Company to keep and expand its manufacturing plant in Claycomo, Missouri. The legislature wants to pay for the \$150-million in tax incentives (over 10 years) for Ford by requiring new state employees to contribute four percent of their salaries toward their retirement. I have stated my objections in previous columns: I do not think we should force the lowest paid state employees in the nation to take a pay cut so the state can hand over millions of dollars in tax revenue to a company that reported more than two *billion* dollars in profits in the last quarter. It seems as though quite a few of my colleagues in the House and Senate agree with me.

Last week the Senate passed the pension reduction bill and sent it to the House. This week the House met in technical session but refused to consider the pension bill approved by the Senate. The two chambers are stuck over a provision in the Senate version which would create the Missouri State Retirement Investment Board. This new board would manage the investment of the assets of the Missouri State Employees Retirement System (MOSERS) and the Missouri Department of Transportation and Highway Patrol Employees Retirement System (MPERS) and other retirement systems, if their governing boards agreed.

Meanwhile, the Ford bill was blocked in the Senate Government Accountability and Fiscal Oversight Committee by the chairman, who opposes granting tax credits to large corporations. That prevented the bill from moving to the Senate floor for debate. A different Ford bill was introduced in the Senate late last week which is designed to bypass the GAFO

Committee. That bill has been referred to the Senate Jobs, Economic Development and Local Government Committee for a hearing.

Both chambers are scheduled to return to Jefferson City on Tuesday, July 13th, but at this point no one seems to know what, if anything, will happen when we return.

I hope everyone had a safe and fun 4th of July holiday. I spent the holiday weekend traveling throughout the 18th District, attending parades, eating every kind of grilled meat known to man, and enjoying fireworks displays. Our country's birthday party is also a great time to reflect on our history. We are celebrating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which asserted our freedom from the King of England due to his tyrannical rule over the original 13 colonies.

"I am apt to believe," John Adams wrote in 1776, "it will be celebrated, by succeeding generations, as the great anniversary festival." Adams continued in a letter to his wife Abigail, "It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." Adams prediction came true, although he got the date wrong; he thought America would forever celebrate "the Second of July, 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America." The Second Continental Congress declared its independence from the British Crown on July 2, 1776, but the actual Declaration of Independence was formally adopted on July 4 after a couple of days of debate.

If you have any questions or comments about these or any other issues give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an e-mail at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.