

Having trouble viewing this e-mail?

May 20, 2010

Click [here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)




## **The Stouffer Report: *Maintaining the Rural Way of Life***

During the 2010 legislative session, we were able to make some progress on agricultural issues, despite the limited amount of funds we had to allocate to this area in our state. In government, common sense is sometimes much more effective than more spending.

The biggest victory for agriculture in this year's legislative session was the blocking of a decision by the [Missouri State Tax Commission](#) to raise taxes on farmland by an average of nearly 11 percent. [Senate Concurrent Resolution 35](#) rejects the tax increase by a majority vote of both legislative chambers.

Other legislation included [Senate Concurrent Resolution 51](#), which urges Congress to oppose funding the [Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study](#). This measure, which is offered just about every year, asks that Missouri's Congressional delegation tell the [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#) to narrow the scope of the authorized purposes study and make it consistent with congressional authority. It is our hope that folks will realize recreational use of the river should never trump the flooding, energy and transportation concerns of the Midwest.

Under [Senate Bill 795](#), which turned into an omnibus agriculture bill, streamlined fees currently going into the [Missouri Department of Agriculture](#) and made other changes relating to

-  Home
-  Recent Topics
-  Local News
-  Visit the Capitol
-  My Legislation
-  About Me
-  Podcasts

animals including laws regarding feral hogs. Unfortunately, the legislation did not include a fix for the crisis caused by the ban on horse slaughter in the United States. This short-sighted federal ban has led to the abandonment of horses and the high cost of disposal of deceased horses.



We tried very hard to keep outsiders from crafting state laws regarding raising animals. Unfortunately, the opposition to [House Joint Resolution 86](#) prevailed and blocked us from a victory. Now, the [Humane Society of the United States](#) (HSUS) is pushing forward with a ballot initiative that sounds good on the surface, but could devastate rural Missouri. This organization will begin with the further regulation of Missouri's dog industry. What the HSUS really wants to do is end the practice of raising all animals.

So, all in all, we had a fairly successful year in terms of agriculture. My hope is that we continue to work for rural families and maintain a vibrant agriculture industry, the backbone of our state's economy.

*Senator Stouffer serves the counties of Carroll, Chariton, Cooper, Howard, Lafayette, Macon, Ray, Saline, and a part of Clay.*

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please call toll free (866) 768-3987 or by e-mail at [bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov).

[bstouffer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:bstouffer@senate.mo.gov) | [www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer](http://www.senate.mo.gov/stouffer)  
State Capitol, Room 332, Jefferson City, MO 65101 | (866) 768-3987