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**MISSOURI
SENATE**
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Senator Griesheimer Applauds Governor for Signing Bills that Benefit Consumers

JEFFERSON CITY – Two measures handled in the Senate by Sen. John Griesheimer have been signed into law this week.

During a bill signing ceremony on June 22, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon signed [House Bill 2198](#), which gives new vehicle franchise dealers some recourse when dealing with manufacturing companies. The ceremony was held in Union, Missouri, which is in Sen. Griesheimer’s Senatorial District (26).

The law will allow dealerships to file disputes with manufacturers with the state’s Administrative Hearing Commission, in order to avoid going to court. The law also protects geographical sales areas and sets parameters and responsibilities for vehicle warranties, as well as addresses the manufacturer’s responsibility for reimbursement when a dealership is terminated.

“House Bill 2198 will help dealerships keep their doors open in this economy and keep prices low for our state’s consumers,” said Sen. Griesheimer. “I sold cars once in my life, and I know firsthand how the manufacturers used to treat the dealerships – manipulating the prices on parts, or forcing dealerships to buy cars that weren’t selling in order to get more of the ones that were. In the end, these costs get passed on to the consumer.”

On June 24, the governor signed also [House Bill 1750](#), which requires Missouri’s largest telecommunications companies to balance out the differences between interstate and intrastate access rates for Incumbent Local Exchange Telecommunications Companies (ILECs). These companies provide local telephone service for specific geographical areas – including the 26th District. Under this bill, ILECs would be required to reduce their rates by 6 percent of the difference per year for three years, until the interstate and intrastate rates are more comparable.

The measure also protects smaller telecommunications companies, like Fidelity, in the senator’s district, except for in areas where they compete with other telecommunications companies. The first 6 percent reduction must take place by March 1, 2011.

“House Bill 1750 will ultimately benefit the consumer, as the savings from the reductions could be used to improve broadband deployment to underserved areas and those without any broadband access,” said Sen. Griesheimer. “It exempts the smaller companies and allows them to compete, and competition is always good for the consumer.”

Both measures will become law on August 28.

“These bills were priorities for me this past session, so I’m pleased that the governor recognized the importance of these bills and signed them into law,” said Sen. Griesheimer.

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