

STATE SENATOR

DISTRICT 22
PAUL WIELAND

2016 Capitol Report

Inside This Issue:

- Ports
- FY 2017 Budget
- Predatory Towing



CONTACT THE SENATOR
201 W. CAPITOL AVE., RM. 334
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
(573) 751-1492
WWW.SENATE.MO.GOV/WIELAND

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Second Regular Session of the 98th General Assembly has come and gone. It continues to be an honor serving the citizens of the 22nd District in the Missouri Senate.

During the 2016 session, lawmakers passed a fiscally responsible budget, as well as measures I sponsored to improve and expand Missouri's port system and protect consumers from predatory towing practices. The September veto session also saw legislators override 13 of the governor's vetoes.

The 2017 legislative session will begin in January. Until then, I look forward to seeing you in the district throughout the remainder of the year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact my office in Jefferson City if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



*Paul Wieland
State Senator*



PORT LEGISLATION SIGNED INTO LAW



Navigable waterways provide a low-cost, environmentally sound way to transport goods to market and present unique tourism opportunities for states that wisely choose to invest in them. With access to over 1,000 miles of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers, Missouri's geographic location makes our port system one of our state's biggest assets. As we enter into a new age of global economics, ports will play an even greater role in exporting Missouri products across the nation and beyond.

This session, I sponsored Senate Bill 861 to give Missouri ports the reliable financial support they need to continue improving, expanding and creating jobs. Senate Bill 861 authorizes Missouri's port authorities to create advanced industrial manufacturing (AIM) zones for the purpose of establishing a dedicated funding source for port improvement and development. Additionally, it creates tax incentives for entities that utilize Missouri port authorities.

An AIM zone is an area that is being developed or redeveloped for any purpose so long as any infrastructure and building built or improved is in the development area. Under SB 861, 50 percent of the employment taxes created by new jobs within an AIM zone will be deposited in the Port Authority AIM Zone Fund, creating a long-term revenue stream for our port authorities.

Senate Bill 861 will have a significant, positive economic impact on Jefferson County. With the dedicated AIM Zone Fund, Jefferson County Port Authority (JCPA) will be able to access funds whenever they need to make improvements, instead of going to taxpayers.

A great example of how SB 861 will help create jobs and lead to increased revenue for our state is the Delta Queen Steamboat Company's recent decision to move its new corporate headquarters to Kimmswick, Missouri. The Delta Queen is the last authentic overnight steamboat in the country, and it will soon be calling Kimmswick its home port. Local officials anticipate the Delta Queen will create roughly 170 new local jobs and annually bring in more than \$36 million for the region. Thanks to my legislation, a portion of the payroll taxes generated from new jobs associated with the Delta Queen will be deposited into the Port Authority AIM Zone Fund; in turn, JCPA will be able to use those funds to further develop its port and attract more business.

In addition to sponsoring SB 861, I also fought to secure more than \$12 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2017 for Missouri's port authorities. Of that \$12 million, \$1.4 million is going to Jefferson County for improvements in Kimmswick for the Delta Queen project.

By creating a dedicated funding source for Missouri's port authorities, my legislation will help encourage more businesses to ship their goods by waterway and promote increased tourism in our port towns. As a longtime advocate of Missouri's port system, I am proud we were able to pass this important economic development bill. The governor signed SB 861 in July, and the measure took effect on Aug. 28.

Legislature Overrides Consumer Protection Bill



During September's veto session, the Legislature successfully voted to override the governor's veto of House Bill 1976, which contains language I sponsored relating to predatory towing practices.

Missouri lawmakers have been trying for decades to pass meaningful towing regulation. My legislation was the product of many meetings conducted by the Senate Interim Task Force on Predatory Towing Practices, on which I served as chairman.

Throughout the 2015 interim, I and four fellow senators traveled across the state to hear firsthand from Missourians who had been victims of predatory towing practices. We then took all of that information and feedback and turned it into a balanced measure meant to bring greater clarification to current state law and provide further protection for Missouri citizens.

One of the provisions contained in HB 1976 prohibits tow trucks from towing a vehicle from a scene, except under specific circumstances, unless they have been summoned by a law enforcement officer, the driver or owner of the vehicle or their authorized agent or motor club. It also requires tow companies to be open for a minimum of 10 hours per day, Monday through Friday, 52 weeks per year, so customers can view or retrieve their vehicles or items from within their vehicles. Finally, HB 1976 requires tow truck companies to display their business address at their location and in such a way that it is visible from the street or road, among other provisions.

The towing provisions contained in HB 1976 will go a long way toward preventing tow companies from taking advantage of Missouri citizens who already find themselves in stressful situations.



FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Passing a balanced budget is the only constitutional duty the Legislature is required to fulfill each year. It is also our most important job and requires months of hard work and focused discussion. Although we had until early May to pass the budget for Fiscal Year 2017, we once again delivered it to the governor ahead of schedule. Fiscal Year 2017 runs from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017.

This year's \$27.3 billion budget reflects Missouri lawmakers' continued commitment to funding state programs and services, taking care of our most vulnerable citizens, eliminating wasteful spending and passing a fiscally responsible budget that our taxpayers can afford. One of the most notable aspects of the FY 2017 budget is that we were able to defund the state's only abortion provider.

Highlights from the FY 2017 budget:

- Record levels of funding for K-12 education, including an additional \$70.4 million;
- An increase of \$21.2 million for early childhood special education;
- A 4 percent increase in performance-based funding for higher education;
- More than \$12 million in funding for Missouri's port authorities; and
- A 2 percent pay increase for state employees.

DISTRIBUTION OF EACH TAX DOLLAR

FISCAL YEAR 2017 AFTER VETO OPERATING BUDGET
All Funds: \$27.258 Billion



*Revenue, Office of Administration, Elected Officials, General Assembly and Real Estate

STATE SENATOR PAUL WIELAND
201 W CAPITOL AVE RM 334
JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101

PRESORTED STANDARD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Jefferson City, MO 65101
Permit No. 220

Welcoming Visitors to the Capitol

