



From the House...

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Fighting for Missourians

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and Ethics Reform

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During the Governor's State of the State Address just a few weeks ago, he made the commitment that he would not raise taxes on Missourians. This week we helped him keep that commitment with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 3-7-13. HCR 3 is a resolution that opposes the recommendation of the Missouri Tax Commission to adjust property values on agricultural land.

The Missouri Tax Commission is charged with evaluating agricultural land in our state and making recommendations to the General Assembly on the amount of taxes that will be paid on that land. In late December, 2009 they made a recommendation that would have lowered the rate on some property but would have raised it on other land. Some of the increases would have been as high as almost 29%. After the recommendations are made by the Tax Commission, the General Assembly then has a window of time to reject those recommendations, if we don't reject them, they automatically go into effect.

Agriculture is a connected industry, if you raise production costs on the row crop land as this recommendation would have, that cost is passed on to the livestock producers and of course in the grocery store. I feel that with the difficult times farmers in our state have had in recent years, now is not the time to raise taxes on any segment of agriculture. Obviously I am not the only one that feels that way; the Resolution passed the Missouri House of Representatives by a vote of 140 to 15. A similar Resolution passed in the Senate by a vote of 30 to 3.

Committee work in the capitol is where most of the activity is early in session and this week was no exception. Two of the committees I serve on were very busy and had a tremendous amount of interest from the public.



Rep. Day in a committee hearing

The Committee on Government Accountability & Ethics Reform had two meetings this week, hearing a total of ten bills. We are hearing proposals that cover a wide range of ideas from fellow lawmakers about how to address concerns that have recently been brought to light by the actions of a few elected officials in Missouri. We are scheduled to have one more hearing for filed bills next week, and then we will be rolling up our sleeves and starting on the difficult task of writing a bill that can gain bipartisan support in committee. Our Committee Chairman has pledged that no bill will leave this committee unless there is support from both sides of the aisle.

Another committee that saw a lot of action this week was the Committee on General Laws. This week we heard House Joint Resolution 57, better known as the Health Care Freedom Act. HJR 57 will send a constitutional amendment to the voters which, if passed will prohibit any person, employer, or health care provider from being forced to participate in any health care system. In other words,

Missourians will continue to have the freedom to seek whatever healthcare and healthcare insurance that they wish to, regardless of what restrictions are passed in Washington, DC. Currently 33 other states are working on legislation similar to this.

Of all of the committee meetings I have sat in, this one had the largest turnout of interested parties that I can remember. There has been hundreds of written testimony documents turned in along with a packed room of people wanting to hear the details of this bill and share their thoughts on it. To my knowledge, nobody in attendance was opposed to this resolution. We will find out next week when we receive our copies of the written testimony what the feelings were of those individuals, but of the ones I looked at all were in support of the legislation. We will likely vote on that constitutional amendment next week where I expect passage out of committee.

The days in the capitol continue to get longer and starting next week we will start seeing more activity on the Floor as bills start moving out of committees. I have had four of the bills I am sponsoring assigned to committees this week so of course I will be busy presenting those to other committees.

I hope that if you are in the Jefferson City area during the week that you will take a few moments and stop by the capitol and visit. I also hope that as we work on legislation you will contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. It is an honor to represent you in our state's capitol and through good communication I am able to represent you even better.

As always, please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance. My office number is (573) 751-1446, my e-mail address is david.day@house.mo.gov and I can be found on the web at www.StateRepDay.com.