



Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR—DISTRICT 7

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The county fair season is upon us. Some levees in Carroll County have succumbed to flood waters released by the Corps of Engineers. The talk of a special session is gaining momentum. Ad hoc and special legislative committee meetings have kept me on the road this past week.

It is during this time of year that elements of Missouri government talk of a special legislative session. I have yet to see a true emergency come up between sessions that had to be legislatively addressed and could not have been handled during the regular session. The Governor has exacerbated that discussion this week by a call for the House and Senate leadership to meet to discuss economic development items and tax credits. In a statement released Friday, the Governor said he would be inviting legislative leaders to a meeting with his budget staff to *"finalize a strategy for passing legislation to create jobs and make Missouri more competitive."* Those two issues have been at the top of the House list of goals for the past three years. We passed all of these proposed components in early April only to see the bills lumped into an economic development omnibus bill and fail in the last week in the Senate. Where was the executive branch's leadership in May? We need economic development and the employment that it provides, but we have needed it for three years. Maybe with the election cycle fast approaching we will see the egos and the politics unite for the

passage of beneficial legislation.

The call for a special session has ignited the propaganda machines of the special interest groups. I have received literature from business groups espousing economic development and tax credits and stressing the tax and employment returns that they generate. Additional documentation has arrived addressing the evils of tax credits in general and the alleged "corporate welfare" that we, in the legislature, are seen to support. The unions have added their usual negative anti-business message. In addition, I have received word from the Right to Life organization that any bill giving funds to the Missouri Science Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA) or the Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC) must contain a paragraph explicitly prohibiting human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. I may have forgotten a group or two, but you get the idea. The most logical time for a special session would coincide with the Veto Session in mid-September and already the attempts to influence those decisions have begun.

An email blitz is in progress to enact Caylee's Law, in direct response to the not guilty verdict in Casey Anthony's trial last week. The bill would make it a felony not to notify law enforcement officials of the death of a child within 24 hours. I have received over a hundred electronic messages in the last few days from all over the country with many from the 7th District.

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The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has begun channeling extensive funds into Missouri politics again. Their front organization this time is called Your Vote Counts and they are trying to pass a ballot initiative that makes it more difficult for the legislature to alter a voter-approved initiative. I have previously written about the FACT that America is a republic and not a democracy (*see Log Vol. 3, Number 27, paragraph 2*). You can access it on my website www.RepMikeLair.com. Like Proposition B, this proposal has some merit in its core rationale, but it is the underlying purpose that is disturbing. If the HSUS was only about dogs, the July 2011 newsletter from the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation should have put their fears to rest. The newsletter states the Governor, the Attorney General, and the Missouri Department of Agriculture have united their efforts to implement SB 161, "This is truly an historic event...and has signaled a new day for the humane treatment of dogs." HSUS has another agenda.

A new lobbying effort has surfaced in the past several weeks known as the Prohibition Party. It is centered in Georgia and seeks to stop the use of alcohol just as we did in the United States from 1920-1933. Will Rogers commented on the previous attempt saying, "*Why don't they pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting anyone from learning anything? If it worked as well as Prohibition did, in five years Americans would be the smartest race of people on earth.*"

Another group that lobbies extensively

is the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). They have taken exception to two bills passed by the General Assembly this session. The first is voter ID and the second is public prayer. The ACLU is an organization that I rarely agree with, but I am glad that they exist to keep the Bill of Rights secure. I just wish that they would protect the Second and Tenth Amendments with the same vigor they display when defending some of the others.

Please support the area young people engaged in FFA and 4-H county fair activities. In most cases, the fairs are a culmination of a year's effort. Many of these young people will be the backbone of our rural communities in the future.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the citizens of the 7th District. Gregg and I are at your service at (573) 751-2917, or mike.lair@house.mo.gov or State Capitol, 201 West Capitol Avenue, Room 400, Jefferson City, MO 65101.

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