



Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR—DISTRICT 7

Volume III #48

November 28, 2011

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There you can view video clips, read legislation and hear the House Floor debate live.

This week begins the busy season between holidays. I am also preparing for the legislative session to begin during the first week of January and finishing my interim committee work. All of the members of the General Assembly are anxiously awaiting the release of the state House and Senate Redistricting Maps by the courts, which will be in place for the next decade.

The end of the year is a perfect time to reflect on the state of our nation and a consistent news story for the last several months has been the various "occupy movements" around the country. I believe I understand the basis of the original movement, and that there have been several groups that have, at least partially, hijacked that intent. In that original group, I saw a heterogeneous coalition made up of true concerned patriots, liberals looking for an excuse to carry signs and bash the affluent, and citizens that have economically suffered during the recession of the last several years. I look at them in a similar fashion to the way I look at the immigration question - just stay within the law of the land. We all have a guaranteed right under the First Amendment to *peaceful* assembly, but not if we violate any law or put others in peril in the process. The crime and violence that have accompanied many of these gatherings are not reflective of the organizers intent, but a symptom of the lack of respect for the law that has crept into our society over the last several decades.

A recent news release stated that the movement has cost cities around the country over \$13 million.

As I have watched the news over the past several weeks, I have noted a misnomer from many of the protesters; they demand equality. In reality, the promise of equality from our founding fathers in our constitution is a promise of the equality of opportunity, not an equality of all things. We are not and never have been created equal. Some of us are smart, some of us good-looking, some hard working, and some have athletic ability. It is our responsibility to do the best we can with the attributes that we possess.

The eighteenth century world that our nation was born into was a world of classes. A society where if your father was a laborer, then you became a laborer, if your father was part of the aristocracy, then you, no matter what skills or personality traits you possessed were born into the ruling class. It was rigid and there was very little vertical movement across class lines.

The opportunity that we are guaranteed consists of a small business owner's right to risk his savings on an expansion, a poor man working hard to escape the bonds of poverty or getting an education to acquire a skill to improve his state. We are a nation of risk takers. We are a nation of people whose traits were born from an idea that men did not have to accept their

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station in life. Our traits were born in a new land that gave no one anything for which they did not work. Fredrick Jackson Turner, a noted historian, wrote the Frontier Hypothesis in the mid 1890's. He believed that America was unique in the world because of our frontier experience. Turner listed typical American traits that were gained from our experiences of creating a new nation. The most significant from Turner's extensive list were individualism, optimism, mobility, economic equality, and a fierce affirmation of American self-rule. John Fitzgerald Kennedy reaffirmed Turner's ideas with his New Frontier programs of the 1960's.

used my form as an assignment and then submitted the best for my consideration.

Thank you for the privilege of representing the citizens of the 7th District. As always, 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. My website is www.RepMikeLair.com.


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One common policy objective that I have heard from the various spokespersons of the movement is *income inequality*. I am not sure if this is wealth redistribution, minimum wage, underemployment, entitlement mentality, or some other masked term that means taking your tax money and giving it to someone else. I support the right of these people to peaceably assembly, but not to block other people from going to work, or to deface public buildings and grounds, or to destroy private property.

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Even a short week produced constituent contact with two federal agencies and DESE, MoDOT, DNR, and a county sheriff. If you have an idea for possible legislation, I would like to remind you about the "There Oughta Be A Law" feature on my website. There have been several possible pieces of legislation suggested and there is little time remaining to go through the process. There is one American Government class within the district that