



Lair's Legislative Log...



REPRESENTATIVE MIKE LAIR — DISTRICT 7

Volume IV #8

February 20, 2012

VISIT MY
WEB-SITE FOR
ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

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Keep up with the legislative process through the internet by visiting www.house.mo.gov

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

Last week saw the completion of the first legislative step in budget creation. We were besieged with robo-calls and email flood tactics on several issues. Additionally, floor action was strong and our new House Information System was updated to perform even better. I believe that we had a record number of district visitors to the office.

HB 2002, DESE funding, and HB 2003, funding for Higher Ed took their first step toward becoming part of the Missouri fiscal year 2013 budget Tuesday afternoon by passing out of my Appropriations – Education Committee. There were no cuts to the Governor's proposed budget and recommendations for increases to MOREnet, Vocational Rehab, an extremely successful and cost effective early childhood literacy program, and the Regional Professional Development Centers that operate around the state. I also supported an amendment that would pool several scholarship programs that are underutilized to assure that scholarship funds are available to the young people that are most deserving of our help. These two bills will now be sent on to the full House Budget Committee, upon which I serve, for further study and possible amendment. The next several weeks will have a Budget Committee hearing scheduled each day to push the sixteen budget bills onto the House Floor.

The aforementioned "robo-calls" were in regard to HB 1316, a bill that would allow Missouri to build a second nuclear power plant in Callaway County. Like so many partisan calls, this one distorted several facets of the bill. First, the call said electric rates would increase. There would be a rate increase of two dollars per year for the average residential household. The

call said the plant would be built on a fault line and so subject to earthquakes. Callaway County is not New Madrid. The basic question becomes whether or not you believe that nuclear power is a viable energy option. With the current attack on fossil fuel (coal fired) plants by the federal regulators, I am convinced that nuclear plants are our best option for reliable and affordable energy in the future. Missouri can be a power supplier or a power customer for power produced in other states – I would rather sell energy than send our funds to other states. Added advantages would be low electric rates and the thousands of construction and maintenance jobs such a project would generate.

The House Information System was instituted two years ago and has paid great dividends for legislators and Missouri taxpayers. For House members, any bill before us is available on our laptops along with any amendment that has been filed and its fiscal note. In the past 1.1 million pages of paper was distributed to the legislators' desks during session. Last year the cost of paper and printing dropped by over 80% and that does not take into account staff time and effort. Additionally, it allows us to prepare better for debate and makes it harder to "sneak" anything into a bill. For you who follow closely the legislative process, you can view the amendments on www.house.mo.gov, click 'help finding amendments' under "Related Links."

The strong support from 7th District responders to the Voter Photo Id issue was borne out by additional calls and emails this week. Instances of voter fraud or possible voter fraud were detailed to an extent that I never dreamed existed in rural Missouri. Some instances were of vot-

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er registration deception and others were made up of unintentional chances for people to “game the system.”

Office visitors this week included Jason Helton of rural Livingston County representing North Central Missouri College. Ron Wolf and Jayme Caughon of Grand River Technical School representing the Missouri Council of Career and Technical Administrators and Darren Farmer of Polo, District VP of Missouri Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association. Each of these groups discussed issues relating to our agricultural education programs.

Future Farmers of America and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America both were in attendance on Wednesday of last week. Kristy Christy, Chillicothe High School FCCLA advisor brought state president, Caleb Hearon and Hannah Thieme for a ceremony in the Governor’s office. The Future Farmers of America, led by Keith Dietzschold, represented the entire state leadership core with Jon Black of Chillicothe and Zach Grossman of Tina from the 7th District. Pictures of both groups may be seen on my website www.RepMikeLair.com.

On Tuesday, the Missouri Retired Teachers Association was ably represented by Ed Martin, Connie Carder, Thomas Anderson, Gary Henry, Russell Clodfelter, Pat Reed, and Dorothy Nollan all of the current 7th District. In addition, from the new 7th District, Rogene Smith, President of the Linn County Unit and Carolee Hall both of Brookfield advocated for the MRTA legislative agenda.

Additional Carroll County residents in the office this week were Sarah Webb-Wilson, Executive Director of the House of My Father shelter for domestic and sexual abuse located in Carrollton and Peggy McGaugh, Carroll County Clerk, who was enlisting help on election issues.

My Friday was highlighted by the Chil-

licothe Area Chamber/FFA Salute to Agriculture Breakfast and the chance to address the Grand River Vo-Tech and Chillicothe High School faculties at their professional development meeting.

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

Mike Lair



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Welcome to the Capitol...



Caleb Hearon (MO FCCLA State President), Hannah Thieme (MO National Officer Candidate) and Kristi Christy (Chillicothe FCCLA Advisor) visited with Representative Mike Lair in the Capitol.

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State FFA Officers Jon Black of Chillicothe and Zach Grossman of Tina met with Representative Mike Lair.