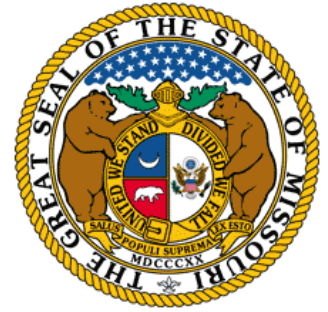




**REPRESENTATIVE
CHARLIE DENISON
DISTRICT 135**

Committees

Chair - Infrastructure and Transportation Funding
Vice Chair - Rural Development
Transportation
Transportation Oversight
Tourism
Local Government



**Capitol Report
for
February 19, 2010**

From the Desk of Charlie Denison

This week, the legislature moved forward on a number of important issues as we worked on job creation, ethics reform and election reform. We took important steps while working on these priorities and I look forward to the opportunity to continue this important work. Over the next three months, I believe we can deliver real results to the many important issues facing our state.

On Monday, we passed House Bill 1497, which would require special elections for all vacancies for statewide offices. As we have watched over the past few years, office vacancies have led to cases of corruption, bribery and cronyism. This bill will ensure that Missourians do not suffer from the same embarrassment that states like Illinois have faced, and will also ensure that Missourians have a voice in selecting their representatives in government. The bill, which passed the House last year, has now moved to the Senate. We will continue to monitor its progress and hope that the Senate will send this important piece of legislation to the Governor's desk this year.

On Tuesday, we gave initial approval to House Bill 1675, legislation that provides incentives for qualified suppliers and manufacturing facilities that create or retain Missouri jobs. There are few things that are as important this year to our state as jobs. During our current economic challenges, it is imperative that we craft legislation that will ensure that we protect Missouri jobs and create new ones. This proposal will help ensure that manufacturers in Missouri are able to weather the current economic storm and maintain their operations in our state.

As I have mentioned in the past, we have decided to take a close look at our ethics laws and work to pass needed reforms. While the proposals are many and the discussions often complicated, the Committee on Government Accountability and Ethics Reform continues its work on crafting a bipartisan bill that will address some of the issues that have arisen over the

past year. Over the coming weeks, this legislation will likely be voted out of committee and come to the House floor for debate. I believe we will take this opportunity to pass meaningful reforms that can help clean up many of the ethical problems that we have seen lately.

I am excited about the progress we have made on these important bills. We will continue to work diligently on these bills and many others. I encourage your feedback throughout this legislative session and if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns, please let me know.

In the Capitol

This week we had a number of visitors in the Capitol, including guests from the Missouri Council of the Blind, my friends Bob and Jim Roberts along with a group of pastors from southwest Missouri and, my friend, Buck Van Hooser with others from the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Springfield. It is always great to see folks from Springfield visiting the Capitol. I encourage you to contact my office and take an opportunity to visit. We would be happy to arrange the visit!

Capitol Connection

Please be sure to check out the [House of Representatives Homepage](#) where there are a number of video features about the current issues at the Capitol. I encourage you to take a few minutes to visit this page and check out these very informative features.

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