



NEWS

**From the Office of
Representative Charlie Denison
135th District**

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Representative Charlie Denison to Receive Business Award

St. Louis Business Journal to recognize legislators committed to promoting business interests

Jefferson City- The St. Louis Business Journal has announced that Representative Charlie Denison (R-Springfield) will be recognized with its Legislative Award for his efforts in promoting a pro-business economic climate in Missouri during the 2009 Legislative Session. During a session that was largely dedicated to job creation and economic recovery, Denison was a leader in working to create jobs by sponsoring House Bill 359, a bill that will reform the way highway projects are awarded by allowing the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission to award design-build contracts.

Design-build, which is a process where all aspects of a project are awarded in a single bid rather than separate bids for different parts of a project, has been used effectively on a number of projects since 2002 and has proven to substantially reduce the length and cost of the projects. The authority to use design-build will become increasingly important due to “use it or lose it” provisions in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Under these provisions, states that are unable to utilize their stimulus dollars may lose their funding and these funds may be given to states with shovel-ready projects. House Bill 359 will provide the Highways and Transportation Commission with a tool for quickly identifying and awarding contracts to ensure Missouri is in a position to receive this additional funding.

“My number one priority during this legislative session was job creation,” Denison said. “This bill has the potential to allow the state of Missouri to capture millions of dollars in federal highway funds that other states fail to use and put thousands of Missourians back to work. I am also proud of a number of other bills that we passed this session, like House Bill 191, aimed to improve the economy by growing businesses and creating jobs.”

“Representative Denison took the lead on this important issue during the session and it is because of his hard work and determination that we now have the bill on the governor’s desk to be signed into law,” said Speaker Richard. He added, “Our primary goal this session was to enact legislation that will promote new

economic activity in Missouri and Representative Denison's bill is one of the most important pieces of our legislative package."

House Bill 359 passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 144-14 and the Senate by a vote of 29-3 and is awaiting final approval from Governor Jay Nixon.