



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Frank A. Barnitz
16th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 425
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
FRANK.BARNITZ@SENATE.MO.GOV

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Contact: Shelly St. Clair
(573) 751-2108

Ideas, Legislation Advance in the Missouri Senate

JEFFERSON CITY – This past week in the Capitol was very busy. Legislatively, we heard some very exciting – and in some cases controversial – issues.

A bill mandating that all gasoline sold in Missouri contain at least 10 percent ethanol was heard in the Senate's agriculture committee. Ethanol has many positive attributes. It is cleaner burning, supports rural economic growth, increases the octane rating and replaces MTBE, a carcinogen found in gasoline today.

Another issue of controversy is the proposed repeal of Missouri's helmet law. Arguments were made by both opponents and proponents of the law now requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on the subject.

Outside of the Legislature, our office was filled with people from every county in the 16th Senate District. A rally supporting the enactment of measures restraining the use of eminent domain drew many local residents. And members of the boards from most of our district's schools were at the capitol to visit about educational issues facing Missouri. Corn growers were also in attendance. I want to thank all who took the time to come by and voice your thoughts and opinions. I want to be sure that all of you know you are always welcome.

The State of the Judiciary address was given by Missouri Supreme Court Chief Justice Michael Wolff to a joint assembly of the Senate and House. Chief Justice Wolff outlined the past, present and future of the court system. One area in particular that was discussed was the success of drug courts and the need for these throughout the state.

This is only a small portion of what is happening in your state Capitol. I will continue to keep you informed of developments as they unfold during the year's legislative session. Feel free to call, email, or just stop by if we can help you with an idea or issue.

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