



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Wes Shoemyer  
18<sup>th</sup> Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 434  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

**A Weekly Column for the  
Week of May 3, 2010**

**Capitol Office:  
(573) 751-7852**

# The Finish Line

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JEFFERSON CITY – We’re heading into the final week of the legislative session, which is probably the busiest week of the five-month session. There are hundreds of bills still pending, and lawmakers will try to attach their bills to other bills that receive floor time during the final days of the session. It’s not unusual to see a three or four page bill grow to dozens of pages in the final weeks as everyone scrambles to get one last bite at the apple. I’m fortunate that I have some good folks working for me who help me keep track of everything in these final, hectic days.

Governor Nixon invited legislators to breakfast at the mansion this week and I had a chance to talk to the governor about the importance of keeping our light metal manufacturing plants competitive in a global economy. Specifically, I told the governor we need him to take the lead with officials in Washington, D.C. to ensure that big employers like Spartan Light Metal Products, which has manufacturing plants in Hannibal and Mexico, have the ability to compete on a level playing field.

Henry Jubel founded Spartan Light Metal Products in 1961, and for four decades Spartan has been an industry leader in aluminum and magnesium die castings. Mr. Jubel believed machinery and technology weren't going to build the company - employees with innovative ideas and strong work ethics were the foundation of Spartan’s success. Spartan is one of the anchors of Mexico’s industrial park and provides 176 good-paying jobs for folks in Audrain County. Spartan currently employs 35 people in Hannibal, down from 70 last year. I will continue to work with the governor and others to make sure that Spartan Light Metal Products has the tools and resources to compete in the global marketplace.

Much of the work of the final week of session will be conducted in conference committees, which are made up of members of the House and Senate. The committee members will try to hammer out compromises between versions of similar bills passed by both chambers. In order for legislation to be sent to the governor for his signature, the language approved by both chambers must be identical. The Second Regular Session of the 95<sup>th</sup> Missouri General Assembly concludes at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 15.

If you have any questions or comments about these or any other issues give my Capitol office a call at (573) 751-7852, send me an e-mail at [wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov](mailto:wes.shoemyer@senate.mo.gov), or drop a line to Room 434, State Capitol, 201 W. Capitol Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101.