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CAPITOL REPORT

The Extraordinary Session of the Missouri General Assembly called by Governor Nixon is now over. We all refer to it as a Special Session but the official name describes it well as it could certainly be termed extraordinary.

Gov. Nixon called the session with two specific purposes. The session was only allowed to address tax credits for the automobile manufacturing industry and modifying the state employee retirement system. Yes, both things occurred through passing two bills but not without many hours of debate and expense to the state.

Although both bills ultimately passed both houses of the legislature, I voted for one but not the other. I voted for the Manufacturing Jobs Act. Keeping the Ford plant at Claycomo will potentially impact the people of the 121st District. The House vote was 101 in favor and 40 opposed. I doubt that any of my constituents work at the Claycomo plant as that would be a substantial commute but I know there are supporting industries to that plant that make it important for us to keep it in Missouri. Every county in Missouri except for one has a supplier or vendor that the Ford plant purchases goods or services from.

The other bill made significant modifications to the state employee retirement system for newly hired state employees. I voted against this bill. Although it carried, it was a much closer vote in the House than the Manufacturing Jobs Act. It passed by 84 voting in favor and 53 voting against. The retirement provisions will remain unchanged for current employees and retirees but new hires will have a reduced benefit package. Currently, the retirement system is a benefit fully provided by the state. New employees will be contributing 4% toward their retirement. Also, new hires will have to be state employees for ten years to be vested compared to five years under the current program. I voted against this bill as it will make it more difficult for UCM, the Warrensburg Veterans Home, and other state agencies with employees located in Johnson County when hiring. People work in state government for a number of reasons. Based on Missouri's salary rankings compared to other states, it is clearly not for the salaries. A good benefits package helped compensate for the low salaries. I guess time will tell how this change will impact the attraction of the State of Missouri as an employer.

In further discussion of economic issues, I will be interested to hear what the cost of the Special Session was. In order to reduce the potential economic drain on the state, I was only in Jefferson City as necessary for voting. Even so, I will be interested to see what this Special Session cost taxpayers.

Employability Expo

I am pleased to share news of the Employability Expo I am hosting in Warrensburg on July 29th. The purpose of this event is to provide job seekers the resources to assist in enhancing their skills as they job search. Putting Johnson

Countians back to work continues to be my #1 priority. When people are working and spending money, sales tax revenues increase which helps fund other priorities such as education and At-home Meals for Senior Citizens.

The Employability Expo will provide assistance with interviewing, advice on finding jobs, and job training programs. I appreciate the involvement of the Missouri Career Center, West Central Workforce Investment Board, the local Chambers of Commerce, the University of Central Missouri, Missouri Valley Community Action Agency, Flexible Staffing, and more.

If you know of people who might benefit from some help in their job-seeking process, encourage them to come to the First United Methodist Church at 141 E. Gay in Warrensburg on July 29th from 1-4 p.m. The expo is open to the public and there is no cost for admission.

Johnson County Fair

Summer is truly here as county fairs are in full swing across the state. I was delighted to see so many of you at the Johnson County Fair. To me the highlight of our fair is the emphasis on agriculture and youth programs. The fair continues to be a great opportunity for FFA and 4-H members to showcase the projects they have committed so much effort to learn about.

I look forward to being a buyer at the sale of champions each year. This year, I bought the Grand Champion Chickens from Jade Schnatz. Jade is 11 years old and headed into the 6th grade at Leeton Middle School where she is an honor roll student. Jade belongs to the Mineral Creek 4-H club in Leeton and her projects include goats, sheep, poultry and woodworking. I also bought a country ham from Shane Carroll. This was Shane's first country ham. Perhaps I could get some eggs in the future to go with that ham. Congratulations to both Jade and Shane!

Until the Next Capitol Report

I genuinely enjoy the opportunity to be out talking with my constituents and attending events throughout the 121st District. I take very seriously that I am here because you elected me as your State Representative. My intention is to serve you and the best interests of District 121, without letting anything else get in my way. You know the value of hard work and strong values, and I can promise you I work to uphold those values. With every vote I take, I never forget the trust Johnson Countians have placed in me. Please feel free to contact me at my Capitol office or my Warrensburg CPA office, Taylor Hoskins & Shaw CPAs, LLC, at 201 N. Holden.

It is truly my privilege to serve as your state representative in the 121st District. Please share this report with anyone you feel would be interested in this information.

Respectfully,

Denny Hoskins

State Representative
District 121

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