

**CAPITOL OFFICE**

State Capitol – Room 403B  
201 West Capitol Avenue  
Jefferson City MO 65101-6806  
Tele: 573-751-1344  
Fax: 573-526-7739  
E-Mail: tom.loehner@house.mo.gov

**HOME ADDRESS**

632 Loehner Ln.  
Koeltztown MO 65048  
Tele: 573-744-5516

**Committees**

Agriculture Policy  
Appropriations-Transportation and Economic  
Development  
Conservation & Natural Resources

**TOM LOEHNER**  
**State Representative**  
**District 112**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2007

For more information please contact Representative Tom Loehner at 573-751-1344

Hello from the capitol!

Well it seems like the weather has finally turned around. I know it sure feels different in the morning feeding and it is getting brighter in the east earlier every week. Maybe Spring is finally coming after all.

I mentioned earlier this year about the possible forming of a stream bank stabilization board for the Maries River Watershed to help with stream bank stabilization projects. I met with Ken Struempf and Bill Foster from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and it seems like this plan is getting very close to realization. This board would consist of landowners, contractors, engineers, representatives from NRCS, and various interest groups such as Conservation, Fish & Wildlife, Sierra Club, and Bass Fishers. They will be in charge of determining what practice will work the best on a given situation and help in the cost share process.

In committee this week we heard House Bill 811 which deals with a utility company's ability to trim trees on an easement or right-of-way. In many urban and some rural areas, companies were prevented from trimming trees in a timely manner because property owners refused to acknowledge that the utility company even had an easement or how wide this easement was. This bill specifies some of the widths. An electric utility may exercise its authority if the trees and other vegetation are: within ten feet of either side of the centerline of electricity lines potentially energized at or below 34.5 kilovolts and located within the limits of any city; or within forty feet of either side of the centerline of electricity lines potentially energized at or below 34.5 kilovolts and located outside the limits of any city; or within fifty feet of either side of the centerline of electricity lines potentially energized between 34.5 and one hundred kilovolts.

In the appropriations hearings for transportation and economic development we went through the budget books. I have never seen such huge numbers. The transportation budget request alone is \$2.3 billion dollars of which 69% is spent on construction, 19% on

maintenance, 5% on fleet facilities and information systems, 3% on mass transit, and 2% on administration.

On the House floor this week we debated HJR 7, HB 262, and HB 263 which all dealt with English as the official language. What this means is that at all official proceedings English will be the common or main language to be spoken. So if you have someone who can't speak English they will have to have an interpreter.

This matter all ties in with the issue of all the aliens that are coming to this country, legally or illegally, to work. Over the past couple of years I have had many of my constituents in the construction and manufacturing fields tell me that they have to take Spanish lessons just to do their jobs or to communicate with fellow workers. I think this is terrible to ask our U.S. citizens to learn a foreign language just so they can work in their own country.

As always, it is an honor and pleasure to serve as your state representative.