

Dirtier Air, Major Loss of Revenue, Weaker Hazardous Waste Oversight

Oppose SB 40



Senate Bill 40, in both the House and Senate forms, would do away with emissions testing for automobiles in Saint Charles, Jefferson and Franklin Counties. Such a move would have a negative effect on the state budget and air quality. In addition it freezes the DNR air, water and waste fees, threatening all environmental law enforcement in Missouri, and it weakens Missouri's hazardous waste management program.

Fiscally Irresponsible

According to the Fiscal Note, the bill will cost the state up to \$1,500,000 or more a year in lost revenue. In addition we risk losing up to \$52 million per year by 2024 in lost federal highway funds, because of lack of compliance of the federally mandated emissions inspection program, implemented in response to poor air quality in the St. Louis region.



Lower Air Quality

Despite the claims of the amendment sponsor, inspections are still needed to protect our air. According to the EPA, Saint Louis area air is still not in compliance with federal standards. (tinyurl.com/stlair) The average age of vehicles on the road is 11.8 years old, meaning that many older cars with less efficient emission reduction systems (or impaired systems) remain on the road.

(More information on other side)

SB 40 is sponsored by Senator Burlison. It passed the Senate and is on the floor of the House.

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Weakens Capacity for DNR to Enforce Environmental Law

The bill removes the ability of the Air Conservation Commission, the Clean Water Commission and the Hazardous Waste Management Commission to modify the fee structures. This means that fees cannot be adjusted up or down to reflect the costs of the department providing certain services, and if there are new activities that would normally be subject to fees no fee can be assessed. As the department has increasing expectations for performance, the lack of financial support means those services may not meet time or quality requirements, some set by statute, and may also create an uneven playing field among regulated entities.

Harms Hazardous Waste Oversight Program

The bill adds a “no stricter than federal” provision to the hazardous waste law. This effectively ends the Brownfields/Voluntary Cleanup Program, which means the program and its staff would no longer be in operation and the state would not seek the \$1M annual grant from EPA to operate it. The state would no longer supervise site cleanups presently conducted through this program. The provision would also change state hazardous waste generator exemption provisions to match the federal ones, costing the Department of Natural Resources about \$500,000 annually.



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