Allow DNR to do its Job
Oppose SB 40

Senate Bill 40 essentially destroys the environmental regulatory policing capabilities of DNR. It is bad for environmental protection and bad for state sovereignty, as it would likely force the EPA to step in to enforce federal environmental law.

Nixes Commissions that Establish Fees for Permits
The bill would take away authority from three state commissions to establish fees for various permits and other regulated activities related to hazardous waste, air protection and water protection.

Destroys DNR Budget
A large portion of environmental quality work is funded through fees. Ending these commissions would cost DNR at least two million dollars each year in lost fees. Compounding the injury, these funds are also used as match for the major federal grant supporting DNR’s environmental protection work, which means that the DNR would lose another 15 million, in total costing the DNR at least 17 million dollars a year.

Would Force the Federal EPA to Intervene
When Missouri accepted delegated authority for environmental regulation, the state agreed to adequately fund the DNR programs that developed and administer the regulations. SB 40 makes it impossible for Missouri to fulfill this agreement, resulting in our state effectively returning these functions to the EPA. Regulated industries would no longer have the buffer of DNR oversight to protect their federal liability. The passage of this bill would cause serious damage to Missouri’s water, air and land while adding serious levels of federal liability to permitted industries. It's a lose-lose proposition.

SB 40 is sponsored by Senator Burlison. It was passed out of the Senate Agricultural, Food Production and Outdoor Resources Committee and it on the Senate Formal Calendar for Perfection.