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# Herman Morse Sworn in as New 151st District State Representative

JANUARY 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Herman Morse Sworn in as New 151st District State Representative

Jefferson City, Missouri - Dexter resident Herman Morse is shown inside the state capital in Jefferson City on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 as he takes the oath of office to serve as Missouri's District 151 State Representative.

Morse won the November 2017 special election after Representative Tila Hubrecht resigned from the post at mid-term.

Morse will complete the term in 2018 and must run in the November 2018 election to retain his seat for two more years.

Pictured are Missouri House Speaker Todd Richardson, (R) Poplar Bluff administers the oath of office to Rep. Elect Herman Morse (R) Dexter, as Rep. Steve Cookson, (R) Poplar Bluff watches on.

Photo credit to Tim Bommel, Photojournalist, Missouri State Capitol, Rm. B-32, Jefferson City, MO

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## From the Office of Doug Libla

JANUARY 18TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

From the Office of Doug Libla

### **ELECTRIC UTILITIES ARE AT IT AGAIN!**

Contact: Ashley Bax (573) 751-4843

Jefferson City, Missouri - Ameren, and other electric utilities are promoting Senate Bill 564 as legislation that is desperately needed for electric consumers.

Let's quickly examine the facts of the bill:

1. Senate Bill 564 removes discretion from the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC) to decide important ratemaking issues. The PSC is the only consumer protection agency against monopolies. This bill adopts ratemaking mechanisms that greatly benefit utilities with even higher profits and all classes of customers will experience much higher electric rates;
2. The PSC has previously rejected ratemaking mechanisms in this bill, such as surcharged increases in transmission costs, tracked property taxes and cybersecurity costs.

So, while a utility is earning more than its authorized profit, these trackers treat the utility as if it was actually earning less than authorized, and then pass the tracked increases on to future ratepayers – pretty tricky;

3. Senate Bill 564 also adopts another PSC-rejected ratemaking mechanism which is plant-in-service-accounting (PISA). The purpose of PISA is to eliminate regulatory lag, the most significant financial incentive a monopoly utility has to curb its costs. The PSC previously rejected Ameren’s request for PISA, referring to it as “a solution in search of a problem”;

4. Proponents of Senate Bill 564 argue the bill’s rate increase “caps” will benefit consumers by limiting average annual rate increases to no more than 3 percent. Truth is... the bill does not include any rate increase caps, there are merely rate increase milestones above which the utilities still collect the inflated rates. Utilities could, conceivably, increase rates by any amount per year and the only consequence would be a penalty that would be much smaller than the extra collections;

5. The rate increase milestones for large industrial customers is different in that the other customers must, for five years, subsidize the industrials by paying even greater rate increases in order to hold the large industrials’ increases to 2 percent. Ameren’s last approved rate increase was 3.5 percent which averaged 1.75 percent per year;

In summary, Senate Bill 564 WILL INCREASE ALL RATEPAYERS’ ELECTRIC RATES, but will increase small and average customers’ rates the most. Dozens of lobbyists are well paid to represent the monopoly utilities; we are paid to represent our constituents.

THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE FOX MANAGING THE CHICKEN HOUSE.

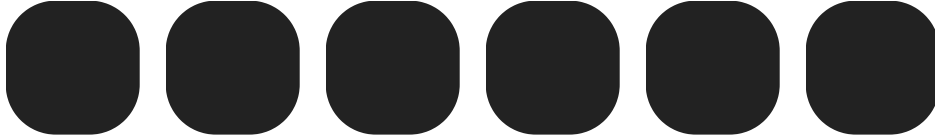
JUST ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DIMINISH THE OVERSIGHT OF THE PSC.

THIS BILL DOES NOTHING FOR THE GRID.

IT IS ALL ABOUT THE GREED!

Doug Libla, Missouri Senator (District 25)

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## Congressman's Smith Capitol Report - The Early Return

JANUARY 17TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman's Smith Capitol Report - The Early Return

### **Congressman Smith Capitol Report The Early Returns January 12, 2018**

On December 22, the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* was signed into law by President Trump. What has happened in the succeeding three weeks is just the beginning of a long and empowering process to reward the American worker for years of sacrifice, dedication and hardship. In these three weeks, over two million U.S. workers have seen bonuses, pay raises, and benefit increases totaling more than one billion dollars...that's right more than \$1,000,000,000.

Whether you are in Missouri and work at an AT&T store, for Boeing or Southwest Airlines, you have already seen the impact of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* through the bonuses issued from your employer as a result of the new law. Right here in southeast and south central Missouri, we are no exception. We have seen companies like Express Employment Professionals with employees in Rolla hand out \$2,000 bonuses

to more than 200 non-executive level employees. In addition, Commerce Bank with operations in Cape Girardeau has said that 3,450 employees will receive bonuses and U.S. Bancorp with a presence in Willow Springs has said that 60,000 employees will receive bonuses and wage hikes – all have cited passage of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act* as the driving reason.

Beyond bonuses, companies like Walmart with a distribution center in St. James and stores in places like Perryville, Kennett, Potosi and elsewhere have said that as a result of the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act*, they will increase hourly wages starting in February and hand out bonuses to all hourly workers. The new law has also now put them in a position to be able to offer up to 10 weeks of paid maternity leave to employees. Elsewhere, many utility providers are passing the new tax savings on to customers in the form of lower rates, helping millions of families who struggle every month to keep the lights on while also feeding a hungry family.

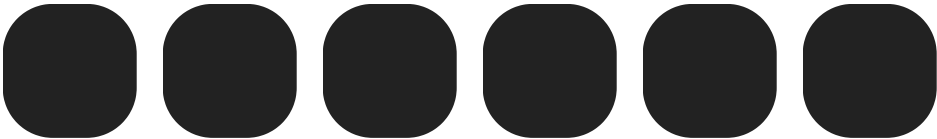
This is what this tax bill was all about, allowing you to keep and save more of what you earn and what is already yours. Like I said, this is just the beginning. Millions more Americans will notice something different in their February paychecks...they will be higher. Even without bonuses, pay raises, or benefit changes, the new lower tax rates in effect starting this year will result in a smaller amount being deducted from your paycheck than ever before. That’s right, what yours is yours, not Washington’s – you should be free to do with that money what you see fit - investing in your farm, buying new clothes for your children, going out to a family dinner, or simply saving for your family’s future.

As the calendar moves further into 2018, I look forward to continuing to stand next to our President to deliver the kind of change that so many of you have called for. Reducing the taxation burden and making sure you are more empowered and liberated than the Washington machine was a good beginning, but so much more work lies ahead. Investments in our nation’s crumbling infrastructure and also making real and substantive changes to bring work requirements back into government assistance programs are major challenges that I am ready for, but which still lurk ahead. Providing relief from the crushes of a tax code too big, too cumbersome and which was taking too much was something I have long fought for and believe in, I look forward to continuing to fight for you with that same determination and vigor in these new challenges we now face.

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## US Rep. Jason Smith Announces 2018 Congressional Art Competition

JANUARY 12TH 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

US Rep. Jason Smith Announces 2018 Congressional Art Competition

### **U.S. Rep. Jason Smith Announces 2018 Congressional Art Competition**

*The district-wide competition is open to all high school students from each of the 30 counties Smith represents*

**CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI** – Today, Congressman Jason Smith announced the 2018 Congressional Art Competition for high school students in public, private and homeschools across southeast and south central Missouri. The theme for the competition is “Our Nation, Our District, Our Community.”

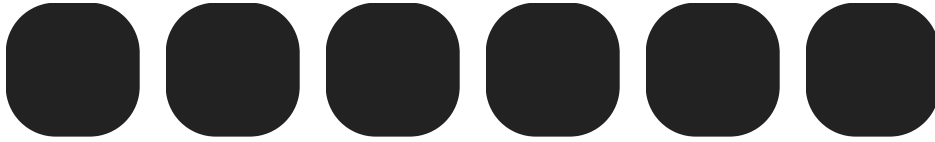
“Seeing the spirit of Missouri expressed in student’s artwork and displayed in the US Capitol Building is always thrilling,” **said Congressman Smith**. “As I travel across the 30 counties that make up Missouri’s 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, I am astounded by the strong spirit, sense of community and work ethic I see from folks in our area. Whether it’s helping farmers in a neighboring state recover from wildfires or cleaning up right outside our front doors after major floods devastated our area last spring, the spirit of Missourians is selfless, hardworking and unwavering.”

Smith’s letter to students inviting them to participate in the contest can be found [here](#). The rules from the 2017 Congressional Art Competition can be found [here](#).

“We host this competition annually, and I am always so impressed by the outstanding talent in our area. I look forward to seeing students’ submissions and the works of art they create again this year,” **said Congressman Smith**.

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## Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Just Getting Started

DECEMBER 28TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Congressman Jason Smith's Capitol Report - Just Getting Started

Congressman Smith Capitol Report

Just Getting Started

December 28, 2017

January 20, 2017 marked a new beginning in our country. On that day, President Trump was inaugurated and immediately began working to restore integrity and meaning to our Constitution, to rule of law, and to turning our economy around. With a focus on individual choice, freedoms and the rights upon which this country was founded, over the last 12 months I have worked alongside our President to once again make this country great. As I sat outside the Capitol and watched our new President taking the oath of office last January, I knew it was no longer going to be business as usual in Washington - exactly the type of change which was needed and exactly the change which millions of

Americans had rightfully called for.

When I look back on the past year, I see a booming economy, millions of new jobs, ISIS on the run, the biggest pay raise for our troops in 8 years, and a record number of conservative pro-life judges appointed to the courts – including Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch. We have also seen historic middle income tax cuts with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Obamacare's individual mandate repealed, and droves of Obama-era regulations removed. In fact, for every new regulation, we have repealed 22 old regulations, saving taxpayers more than 8 billion dollars.

Under President Trump's leadership, we have lowered Missouri's electric bills by relying on our country's own natural resources, opening up parts of Alaska to energy exploration, and approving the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines. The EPA is no longer a job-killing factory piling on rules and regulations left and right. President Trump's EPA has taken my recommendation to get rid of WOTUS, which tried to regulate every drop of water on Missouri's land. The EPA also adopted my proposal to stop the harmful "sue and settle" practice, a massive loophole that allowed radical groups to sue the government and get taxpayer money through closed-door, out of court agreements.

Despite a total lack of support from obstructionists on both sides of the aisle, President Trump and Congress still managed to overcome historic obstacles to achieve major accomplishments in 2017. Unfortunately, some decided to waste their time and taxpayer dollars to try and tear President Trump down through lies, misinformation and even an embarrassing effort to try and impeach the President that was supported by members of the Democrat Leadership. As we worked to cut taxes, repeal Obamacare and defund sanctuary cities, the left threw up road blocks at every turn. As of mid-December, 477 bills had passed the House of Representatives while 378 of those were stuck in the Senate. Included in those efforts was a full repeal and replacement of the government takeover of healthcare, further proposals to lower energy prices, measures to prevent taxpayer dollars from going to abortion providers, protections for your second amendment rights and legislation to provide for full funding of the children's health program known as S-CHIP - all proposals passed by the House of Representatives, but blocked from reaching President Trump's desk by Senate obstructionism.

Whether we are making our country safer by ending chain migration, defunding sanctuary cities like San Francisco that harbor illegal immigrants, rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, changing our federal welfare system from a hand-out to a hand-up, or creating more healthcare choice and competition by getting the government out of the

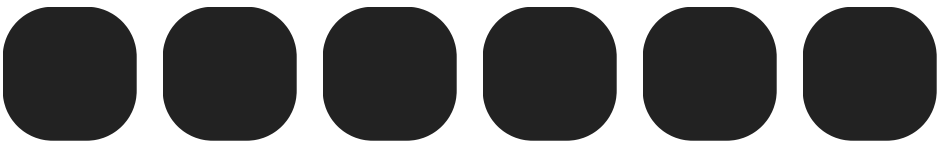


business of health insurance, there is plenty of work to get done together. As we look to 2018, I hope obstructionists in Congress will learn to work with their colleagues and the Trump Administration so we can continue to improve the lives and freedoms of hardworking folks in Missouri and across the country. ? We are just getting started in our efforts to restore this nation to what it was intended to be, and while I am proud of the work thus far, I remain mindful, committed and invigorated to meet the challenges and fights which lie ahead.

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 28TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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