

THE COALITION
FOR PLANT AND LIFE SCIENCES

March 24, 2009

The Honorable John Griesheimer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Jobs,
Economic Development and Local Government
State Capitol
Room 227
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Re: SB 572 - Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act

Dear Senator Griesheimer:

On behalf of St. Louis' Coalition for Plant and Life Sciences, I am writing to express our strong support for the Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA), SB 572. The purpose of MOSIRA is to foster economic growth through the creation, attraction, retention and growth of quality jobs by providing a predictable, stable source of funding for building science and innovation companies and infrastructure in Missouri.

The Coalition for Plant and Life Sciences is a broad-based civic organization comprised of 37 of the St. Louis Region's top civic, business, research, and academic leaders (a list of the Coalition's membership is attached). It was established to strengthen St. Louis' ability to capture the economic potential of the region's existing research assets by translating great science into commercial activity and by making St. Louis a preferred location for start-ups and mature companies in the industry.

In order to successfully reach our economic and job-creating potential, we must establish strong support for creating new companies and also ensure adequate access to funding, physical facilities, and experienced talent to lead the companies. MOSIRA would be critical to ensuring all these elements are in place so that we can establish new companies with the confidence that, as they grow, we will not risk losing them to other parts of the country.

We have monitored the efforts of other states – especially our leading competitors. It is clear that St. Louis and all of Missouri needs a program like MOSIRA to enable us to

Senator Griesheimer

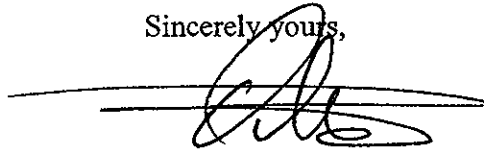
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compete and to fulfill our vision of growing our industry into a leading science-based economy for the 21st century.

Thank you in advance for your support of MOSIRA.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donn Rubin", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Donn Rubin
Executive Director

Enclosure

cc: Senator Tom Dempsey
Senator Victor Callahan
Senator Jack Goodman
Senator Jim Lembke
Senator Ryan McKenna
Senator David Pearce
Senator Luann Ridgeway
Senator Eric Schmitt
Senator Wes Shoemyer

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St. Louis RCGA

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VP, Pfizer Global R&D
Director, St. Louis Laboratories
Pfizer Corporation

Dr. Robert T. Fraley
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Monsanto Company

Dr. Thomas George
Chancellor
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Dr. Henry Givens, Jr.
President
Harris-Stowe State University

Ms. Victoria Gonzalez
President and CEO
Nidus Center for Scientific
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Dr. Zelema Harris
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St. Louis Community College

Mr. Thomas Irwin
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Mr. Kenneth Janoski
President and CEO
The BioGenerator

Mr. David W. Kemper
Chairman, President & CEO
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Mr. Douglas King
President & CEO
St. Louis Science Center

Mr. Lewis A. Levey
President, Real Estate
CORTEX

Ms. Marcia Mellitz
President
Center for Emerging
Technologies

Mr. Walter L. Metcalfe, Jr.
Partner & Former Chairman
Bryan Cave LLP

Dr. Philip Needleman
Former Chief Scientist and
Chairman of R&D
Pharmacia (Monsanto-Searle)

Dr. William A. Peck
Director, Center for Health Policy
Washington University

Dr. Peter Raven
Director
Missouri Botanical Garden

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