

March 19, 2009

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

Dear Senator Griesheimer:

For Missouri to move forward and create the jobs of the future that can provide sustainable employment, it is necessary to create tools that today we do not have available.

As the regional marketing and economic development organization for the greater Kansas City Area, we compete everyday for investment and jobs in Missouri. Too often Missouri is left behind, not because we don't have a great state, but because our toolkit is no longer effective. We cannot build a State for the future with the tools of the past.

Therefore, 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.

MOSIRA will capture only the new growth in state income taxes generated by new employees working in Missouri within designated science and innovation fields. The captured revenue would be reinvested in the science and innovation industry to assure future and continued growth in this critical sector of Missouri's economy. This means jobs in our key industries will create the revenue to draw more of those same jobs.

MOSIRA establishes a new public authority with an independent board of directors (plus expert advisory boards in science and commercialization). It is critical that this authority be created in a way that ensures that projects are selected based on the soundest science and with the greatest potential return on investment to the citizens of Missouri.

Thank you in advance for your support of MOSIRA.

Sincerely,

  
Robert J. Marcusse  
President and CEO

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