



# THE CHAMBER

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

**Peter S. Levi**

*President*

The Honorable John Griesheimer

Chair

Senate Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and Local Government

State Capitol

Room 227

Jefferson City, MO 65101

March 20, 2009

Dear Senator Griesheimer,

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the Missouri Science and Innovation Reinvestment Act (MOSIRA), SB 572. The purpose of this legislation 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. It is important to note that funding through MOSIRA will not involve the use of existing general revenue funds. MOSIRA will establish a base year level for existing state revenue from science and innovation jobs and only new revenue above the base line will be reinvested.

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 projects are selected based on the soundest science and with the greatest potential return on investment to the citizens of Missouri.

For too long, Missouri has lost out on lucrative projects, including major federal laboratories and company relocations that would have brought hundreds of millions of outside dollars to the state, because Missouri could not provide the funding and other incentives necessary to attract such jobs and investment. MOSIRA would provide the needed ability and flexibility to help Missouri compete for such transformational opportunities.

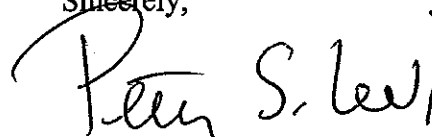
*The Chamber. It Works. In Kansas and Missouri.*

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The investment in science and innovation contemplated by MOSIRA will help lead the way to an economic recovery for the State of Missouri and ensure our state and our region remains competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter S. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

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