



"Everywhere Should Be Like This"

March 20, 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:

On behalf of the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce, 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, and retention 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.

Missouri has not always been able to successfully compete for jobs in the life science industries due to lack of available incentives as compared with other states. We believe these high-tech jobs will define the economy of the future and Missouri must be ready to aggressively pursue opportunities for growth, expansion and investment in science and innovation in our state. We strongly encourage your support of SB 572.

Sincerely,



Andy Lear  
Chairman