

# ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



Volume 9, Issue 2  
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## LINKS

[Find Your Legislator](#)  
[House Session Dates](#)  
[Senate Session Dates](#)  
[MPUA Website](#)

## MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

Jan. 22 | 1pm  
MoPEP Committee mtg  
(Columbia)

Jan. 24 | 10:30am  
South Central Mo. Utility  
Roundtable (Cabool)

Jan. 29 | 10am  
Lineworker Advisory/  
Mutual Aid mtg  
(Columbia)

Feb. 7 | 10:30am  
Northeast Regional  
Utility Roundtable  
(Macon)

Feb. 11 | 10am  
MAMU Legislative  
Committee mtg  
Truman. Bldg 490

## TRAINING

Energy Efficiency  
Certification for Homes  
March 6 - Columbia

Spring Tech 2020  
March 18 - Rolla  
March 19 - Marshall



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## MPUA AND MEMBER ADVOCATES LEAP INTO ACTION

The week of January 13, 2020 proved true that MPAU would start the 2020 session prepared for action. Hearings began at noon on Monday with a three-hour General Laws committee hearing on Representative Hansen's [HB 2033](#). MPAU, along with Rolla Municipal Utilities, the cities of Harrisonville and Columbia, and Marshall Municipal Utilities customer – Central Missouri Agriservice, testified opposing HB 2033. The bill singles out the Grain Belt Express project from other transmission providers from using eminent domain for public purpose infrastructure. Similar to last year, this bill was voted out of General Laws on Tuesday morning with a 9-4. The bill was then passed in the Rules committee with another 9-4 vote and we expect this bill to be perfected on the House floor this week. The Senate Commerce committee kicked off session with a Wednesday hearing on identical bills, [SB 597](#) and [SB 604](#) filed by Senators Brown and O'Laughlin.

The identical bills are the companion bills to HB 2033. MPAU was represented at both hearings with a full force of member communities from Shelbina, Waynesville, Macon, Rolla, Lebanon, and Columbia. We appreciate everyone that took the time to travel to the Capitol and testify in opposition to the proposed legislation.

MPUA's first legislative affairs committee meeting was held last Tuesday, January 14th. We spent time discussing [SB 817](#), Senator Crawford's bill on territorial issues between coops and municipal boundaries. We are watching this bill closely as we are concerned about potential impacts the legislation could have on our utilities. The proposed legislation will allow coops to serve in communities of 1500 population or greater if the municipal system is sold to the cooperative, establishes a restraint of trade under Missouri Antitrust Law for a municipality to require a condition of annexation or provision municipal services

in the area to be annexed, that the owner must obtain electric service from the electric provider currently providing electric in the municipal boundaries.

The annual State of the State address was held on January 15th last week. The Governor's speech focused on his two core priorities, workforce development and infrastructure, while proposing a \$30.57 billion state operating budget for the 2021 fiscal year. MPAU is pleased with the Governor's announcement of a long-term investment in high-speed broadband starting with \$5 million of the budget dedicated for broadband expansion. Additionally, the budget also includes \$22 million toward a new scholarship program called Fast Track, which will allow Missourians to receive training in high demand areas largely taught at our community colleges and technical schools. The Governor's FY 2020 Budget Summary can be found here: [oa.mo.gov/2020budget](http://oa.mo.gov/2020budget).

## IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

State of State: Parson pushes workforce development, education opportunities, [Missouri Times, Jan. 15](#)  
After misfire last year, Missouri lawmakers again trying to stop Grain Belt Express, [Post-Dispatch, Jan. 13](#)  
CMU customers to see savings due to multi-state project, [Chillicothe Constitution Tribune, Jan. 14](#)  
MO Farm Bureau wants state's newly-created broadband program to be permanent, [Missourinet, Jan. 13](#)  
Bottleneck stymies projects, Midwest groups call for transmission reforms, [Energy News Network, Jan. 10](#)

## MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

### Senator Bill White

R - District 32

Elected to Senate: 2018

**Committees:** Chair - Veterans & Military Affairs; Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy & the Environment; General Laws; Health & Pensions; Judiciary & Civil/Criminal Jurisprudence

Lives in: Joplin

**MPUA Cities:** Carl Junction, Carthage, Greenfield, Lockwood

**Tidbit:** Prior to legislative duties, Sen. White practiced law, focusing on children, seniors & business law. He was also the attorney for the Jasper Co. juvenile office.



## BILL BYTES: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPAU

[Find the complete bill report online here](#)

### [HB 1953](#)

[Trent, Curtis](#)

Modifies provisions of the sunshine law by adding utility customer information to closed records

### [HB 2033](#)

[Hansen, Jim](#)

Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes.

**NOTE: Grain Belt legislation**

### [HB 2120](#)

[Kidd, Bill](#)

Establishes provisions relating to water safety and security

**NOTE: Similar to last year's bill mandating federal risk and resiliency rules pertaining to cybersecurity, valve and hydrant inspections, and state reporting of such. Hearing Tuesday**

### [SB 817](#)

[Crawford, Sandy](#)

Modifies provisions relating to rural electric cooperatives.

### [SJR 34](#)

[Libla, Doug](#)

Requires the General Assembly to pass legislation to establish an open, competitive retail electric energy market

**NOTE: Similar to last year's bill mandating federal risk and resiliency rules pertaining to cybersecurity, valve and hydrant inspections, and state reporting of such. Hearing Tuesday**