This week was a very short week in Jefferson City. Because of the victory parade for the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl win and a pressing snowstorm, the House did not work Wednesday or Thursday. The Senate followed suit and did little Wednesday before adjourning until Monday. Several committee meetings were cancelled because of the weather and parade.

The Senate was able to give first round approval for legislation dubbed “Cleaner Missouri”. The bill would eliminate lobbyist gifts (first version limited to 5 dollars) and get rid of the state demographer created in the original Clean Missouri. SJR 38 will head to the House next week. The resolution will need voter approval to be enacted.

Invenergy, the developer of the Grain Belt Express project, announced plans this week to include broadband capability as part of the project route at no additional cost to Missouri communities or taxpayers. Discussions are underway with Missouri internet service providers who could use the infrastructure to provide internet for nearly 1 million underserved Missourians. Estimates show that more than a quarter million rural Missouri households, as well as schools and hospitals located within 50 miles of the Grain Belt Express route, do not have broadband access and would benefit from this new infrastructure. SB 597 (Sen. Brown) passed out of the Commerce committee, but it has not been turned in to be processed for floor debate.

HB 2033 (Hansen) has passed from the House to the Senate, but it has not been referred to a Senate committee yet. MPUA is urging member cities benefiting from the Grain Belt project (35 MoPEP cities along with Centralia, Columbia, Hannibal, and Kirkwood) to call their Senators and voice opposition to the project killing bills.

Please plan on attending the MAMU Legislative Committee meeting next Tuesday at 10am in room 490 of the Truman State Office Building – 301 W High Street, Jefferson City. We will discuss current legislative activity and identify legislators for participants to visit. If you are unable to attend in person, watch for a meeting notice in member’s email inbox for call-in and GoToMeeting instructions.

Grain Belt line will include ‘first of its kind’ broadband infrastructure, impacting 1M rural Missourians, Missouri Times, Feb. 6
County, cities review potential regional sewer, Moberly Monitor-Index, Feb. 7
Grain Belt Express fight moves to Missouri Senate, Hannibal Courier-Post, Feb. 5
Missouri Senate gives first approval to Clean Missouri do-over plan, Springfield News-Leader, Feb. 4

Bill Bytes: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPUA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 1914</td>
<td>Porter, Jeff</td>
<td>Modifies provisions relating to taxation of certain energy-producing property</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 1953 / SB 828</td>
<td>House: Trent, Curtis Senate: Hough, Lincoln</td>
<td>Modifies provisions of the sunshine law by adding utility customer information to closed records</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB 2033 / SB 597</td>
<td>House: Hansen, Jim Senate: Brown, Justin</td>
<td>Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 632</td>
<td>Hegeman, Dan</td>
<td>Extends the expiration date of the broadband internet grant program for unserved and underserved areas of the state from Aug. 28, 2021 to Aug. 28, 2027. <strong>NOTE: hearing Wednesday</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCR 39</td>
<td>Emery, Ed</td>
<td>Establishes the Task Force on Retail Electric Competition <strong>NOTE: hearing Wednesday</strong></td>
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Meet Your Legislator

Representative
Tommie Pierson Jr.
D- District 066
Assistant Minority Floor Leader
Elected to House: 2016
Committees: Ex-officio member of all committees of the House; Ranking Minority Member—Subcommittee on Appropriations - Agriculture, Conservation, Natural Resources, and Economic Development
Lives in: St. Louis
Tidbit: In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Pierson, Jr. is a math teacher in North St. Louis County, and the pastor of InStep Church.