

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPUA Publication



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AG SEEKS TO REDEFINE POLLUTERS – MPUA STEPS IN

Agricultural interests are pushing to change the state's water pollution laws to clarify that they do not need a no-discharge permit from the Clean Water Commission. However, their proposed language pushes additional costs to municipal wastewater utility ratepayers. MPUA has stepped in to protect sewer ratepayers while still accommodating agricultural interests. Legislative leaders seem appreciative of MPUA's efforts and plan to amend the problematic language on the Senate and House floor. [Senator Schatz \(R-Sullivan\)](#) is working with MPUA on these changes ([SB 823](#)). [Rep. Wiemann \(R-O'Fallon\)](#) is the sponsor of [HB 1973](#) and House Utilities Chairman Rocky Miller has taken an interest in the MPUA approach.

The small cell legislation ([SB 837](#)) was voted out of the Senate Commerce Committee. Senators Wasson and Cunningham voted no. We continue to negotiate with the providers, but the legislation still needs work. The House version will be voted on in the Rules Committee this week, before advancing to the floor. MPUA Legislative Committee Chairman Kyle McClure (City Utilities of Springfield) visited with providers to set the stage for upcoming municipal utility discussions based on cost.

We continue to oppose [HB 1947](#), which would change the voting threshold in fourth class cities to a simple majority. The sale of a municipal gas utility was added in committee. We continue to oppose the bill in its present form. We are ask-

ing to include common-sense due diligence language to educate voters on the sale. We suggest requiring sale-specific public hearings, a system valuation, and an evaluation of the impacts, if any, on remaining city resources and revenues, including annexation and growth. This due diligence language will protect the value of municipal utility assets when a sale is proposed.

The Senate spent the week on the investor owned utilities proposal ([SB 564](#)), changing how IOUs are regulated by the PSC. After an apparent compromise during the perfection debate, opponents tried to back out of the agreement during the Third Read debate. Ultimately, the bill passed the Senate and now heads to the House. Municipal utilities are unaffected.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

[Bill that could delay state enforcement of water pollution heard by lawmakers](#) - Springfield News-Leader
[Missouri could struggle to draw federal funds with new infrastructure plan](#) - St. Louis Public Radio
[Years in the Making: Emery's utility bill passes the Senate, heads to House](#) — Missouri Times
[EDITORIAL: Missouri's rural way of life threatened by more than wind power](#) – Post-Dispatch
[Conversation divided on whether prevailing wage helps or hurts Missouri workers](#) - Columbia Missourian

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

**Representative
Rocky Miller**
R - District 124



Elected to House:
2012

Committees:
Chairman—Utilities; Economic Development; Special Committee on Tourism

Lives in: Osage Beach

MPUA Cities: Lake Ozark

Tidbit: In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Miller is a professional engineer & land surveyor, & owner of an engineering, environmental services and land surveying firm.

BILL BYTES: A quick look at bills being tracked by MPUA

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

[SB 823](#)

[Schatz, Dave\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions of the Missouri Clean Water Law

[HB 1973](#)

[Wiemann, John D.\(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions of the Missouri Clean Water Law.

[SB 837](#)

[Rowden, Caleb\(R\)](#)

Establishes Uniform Small Wireless Facility Deployment Act

[HB 1947](#)

[Alferman, Justin\(R\)](#)

Changes the law regarding sale of water or wastewater systems in fourth class cities. [Senate version: [SB 658](#), [Hegeman, Dan\(R\)](#)]

[SB 564](#)

[Emery, Ed \(R\)](#)

Modifies provisions relating to public utilities

LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

[Full Calendar](#)

February 26—28
APPA Legislative Rally
Washington, DC

March 8 | 8:30 am
MPUA Board Mtg.
**Hilton Garden Inn -
Event Center**

March 14 | 10 am
MAMU Legislative
Committee Mtg
Gov. Office Bldg 315

TRAINING

Spring Tech 2018
March 14– Marshall
March 15 - Lebanon



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