

ALLIANCE INSIDE

Keeping you informed on municipal issues from inside the Capitol

 An MPAU Publication



HOUSE SET TO VOTE ON ANTI-GRAIN BELT BILL THIS WEEK

Speaker Haahr has suddenly become a big fan of legislation that would severely hamper if not end the Grain Belt Express project. [HB 1062](#) specifies that no private entity has the power of eminent domain for the purposes of constructing above-ground merchant lines. This legislation would effectively undo five years of testimony and hearings conducted by the PSC. We encourage you to contact your legislative delegation and express your opposition to this legislation.

[HB 831](#) authorizes a special license plate with an official municipal utility worker emblem of the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities. The bill was heard in Senate Transportation on Thursday and voted out 5-0. The Senate passed [SB 330](#), which is identical to HB 831, 33-0 on

Thursday afternoon. Monday was Lineworker Appreciation Day. Several of our cities – Salem, Waynesville, Carthage, and Columbia – sent crews. The Senate and House introduced resolutions and thanked them for their hard work.

The House Utilities Committee held a hearing on [HB 801](#). The bill creates the Missouri Water Safety and Security Act. Within one year, every public water system in the state must create an asset management plan that contains certain information as specified in the bill. MAMU was vehemently opposed to the bill as filed. The sponsor presented a House Committee Substitute that included many of the changes suggested by MAMU. We have also met with Missouri American Water on [SB 66](#), which is the

companion to HB 801.

[HB 1098](#) was voted out of committee this week. The bill adds individually identifiable customer usage and billing records for customers of municipally owned utilities to the list of records that are exempt from disclosure under the Sunshine Law. [SB 453](#) is the Senate companion.

[HB 909](#) and [SB 383](#) bring transparency to the sale of utilities in 4th class cities. HB 909 was recently heard in the House Utilities committee. Special thanks to Shelbina and Holts Summit for their testimony during this hearing. Senator Emery continues to work with all stakeholders to improve the bill, with a new version expected when SB 383 hits the floor for debate.

IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK . . .

Missouri House expected to vote Tuesday on Grain Belt bill; rally planned, [Missourinet, April 15](#)
Letter to Editor from Jim Gillilan, CMU General Manager, [Chillicothe Constitution-Tribune, April 12](#)
Public services backing Grain Belt Express, [KAAN-Bethany, April 10](#)
Water & Light recognized again as ENERGY STAR Partner of Year by DOE, [Columbia Water & Light, April 11](#)
Senate approves plan to provide more funding for utility training programs, [Missouri Times, April 12](#)

MEET YOUR LEGISLATOR

Representative
Travis Fitzwater

R - District 49

Elected to House:
2014

Committees:
Chair - Utilities; Ethics; General Laws;
Rules—Legislative Oversight

Lives in: Holts Summit

MPUA Cities: Fulton, Holts Summit

Tidbit:
Rep. Fitzwater has worked in non-profit management as a marketing coordinator and chief operating officer.



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

Find the complete bill report online here.

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|---|--|
| HB 160 | Knight, Jeff(R) |
| Allows Public Service Commission to authorize a low income rate for water and sewer service. [NOTE: hearing in Senate] | |
| HB 287 | Kidd, Bill(R) |
| Modifies the definition of "public utility" | |
| HB 831 / SB 330 | House: Sharpe, Greg(R) Senate: Brown, Justin(R) |
| Establish special license plate for Assn of MO Electric Coops [NOTE: Includes special municipal utility worker plate] | |
| HB 1062 | Hansen, Jim(R) |
| Modifies provisions for eminent domain for utility purposes. [NOTE: Expected debate Tuesday] | |
| SB 131 | Emery, Ed(R) |
| Requires that the comprehensive state energy plan be reviewed by the Division of Energy by January 1, 2021, and biennially thereafter, and updated if necessary. [NOTE: Hearing in House] | |

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LINKS

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

MPUA CALENDAR

Full Calendar

4/24 | 10am
Municipal Gas
Commission (MGCM)
mtg (Columbia)

May 1 | 10:30
Mo Public Water
Council (MPWC)
Roundtable (Columbia)

May 5-11
Safe Drinking
Water Week

May 7 | 10am
MAMU Legislative
Committee Mtg
Gov. Office Bldg. 316
Jefferson City, MO

TRAINING

April 29 & 30
Fundamentals of
Overhead Rigging
training (Hannibal)



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