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**MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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August 21, 2015

The Honorable Jeremiah W. "Jay" Nixon
Governor of the State of Missouri
P.O. Box 720
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Bonding for a second football stadium in St. Louis

Dear Governor Nixon:

I am writing to inform you that I will not support any appropriations bill which includes funding for debt service on bonds issued for a second football stadium in St. Louis. Furthermore, I will do everything within my power as a legislator and as Vice Chairman of the House Budget Committee to ensure that this plan does not go forward unless there is first an affirmative vote of the people or the General Assembly specifically authorizing the issuance of debt for that purpose.

It would be wise for you to reconsider your plan to attempt to move forward on this project without first receiving approval from the branch of government that decides if it will be funded. The General Assembly never intended for statutes authorizing the original stadium bonds to be exploited in order to pay for a second stadium. Our state constitution gives the power to appropriate money exclusively to the legislature—the executive branch should not bind Missourians to additional debt without the approval of the people or their elected representatives.

As I am sure you are aware, the Attorney General has issued an opinion with which I agree, stating that the General Assembly would not be obligated to appropriate funds for the debt service on this project. If you choose to finance this project in such a manner that would combine these bonds with the bonds on the Edward Jones Dome, then I will be left with no choice but to fight vigorously to ensure that the General Assembly does not appropriate money to service the debt for the combined bonds.

Finally, know that many legislators share my concerns and will join my efforts to block this plan. Should bonds be issued without a vote of the General Assembly or the people themselves, you, Governor Nixon, will bear full responsibility for any damage to Missouri's credit rating. My colleagues and I refuse to participate in this irresponsible plan that will harm more important state spending priorities like public education.

Again, I urge you to reconsider your plans. This letter will be distributed publicly to warn all potential bond purchasers to take note of my concerns and my intended course of action should you move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SCF", written over a horizontal line.

Scott M. Fitzpatrick
State Representative, District 158
Vice Chairman, House Select Committee on Budget

CC: Mr. Brian McMurtry