

April 24, 2017

Dear Senator Libla,

As our state senator, you are undoubtedly aware of the critical need for job opportunities in your district. We write to ask you to allow a vote on SB 190, the Missouri Economic Development and Infrastructure Investment Act.

We are blessed to have not one, but two companies looking to bring hundreds of jobs to Southeast Missouri with the construction of a steel mill and revitalization of the existing aluminum smelter in New Madrid County. An amendment for SB 190 has been proposed that would allow the Public Service Commission to approve an economically viable utility rate for an aluminum smelting facility or steel works facility in our state. It has been proven that without the assurance of a special rate it is not possible for a smelting facility or steel mill to succeed. Whether you support or oppose the amendment, please allow the bill to come to a vote in the Senate.

The aluminum smelter in New Madrid, MO provided hundreds of high-quality, high-paying jobs to our area and spurred economic growth throughout our towns and cities. Since its closure the negative impact has been felt in nearly every facet of life. Our stores, schools and restaurants have suffered losses in revenue. Houses stand empty, families are forced apart because the breadwinner is forced to travel hours away, out of state, to find work or the entire family was forced to leave our state altogether. There is an urgent need for new job opportunities and economic development in our southeast Missouri counties. SB 190 could be the key to help your district grow and prosper once more.

Please, support the people in your district and allow a vote on SB 190.

Sincerely,

Mark Baker
New Madrid County Presiding Commissioner

Don Day
New Madrid County Commissioner

Bobby Acock
New Madrid County Commissioner

Steve Watkins
Pemiscot County Presiding Commissioner

Mark Cartee
Pemiscot County Commissioner

Ben Baker
Pemiscot County Commissioner

Carlin Bennett
Mississippi County Presiding Commissioner

Darrell Jones
Mississippi County Commissioner

Mitch Pullen
Mississippi County Commissioner

Jamie Burger
Scott County Presiding Commissioner

Donnie Kiefer
Scott County Commissioner

Dennis Ziegenhorn
Scott County Commissioner

Richard McGill
New Madrid City Administrator

Dick Bodi
Mayor, City of New Madrid

Denis McCrate
Mayor-elect, City of Portageville

Ben Brown
President, Portageville Chamber of Commerce

Kara Pierce
Director, Caruthersville Chamber of Commerce