



Bipartisan Support Moves Rate Cap Legislation Forward

Legislation that would cap electric rate increases and modernize the energy grid (Senate Bill 564) received strong support from both Republicans and Democrats in the Missouri Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, Energy and the Environment Committee. The bill was approved by the Committee on a 9-1 vote on Jan. 17.

"This legislation builds Missouri's energy future by focusing on three key customer points," said Warren Wood, vice president of External Affairs & Communications, Ameren Missouri. "Customers want electric rates that are more stable and predictable, they want a secure grid, and they want a smarter grid that is more resilient. The bipartisan vote of the Senate Commerce Committee reflects the balanced approach this rate cap legislation takes toward upending the status quo."

As this important legislation is debated by the full Senate, a growing list of supporters have signed on to call for legislators to take action this year. Among the supporters are the Consumer Energy Alliance, Missouri Retailers Association, Missouri Grocers Association, Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, St. Louis Regional Chamber, Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Cape Girardeau Area Chamber of Commerce, Missouri Economic Development Council, and dozens of other businesses, organizations, associations and labor unions that represent thousands of Missourians.

Ongoing discussions among key stakeholders will continue in the coming weeks to ensure that this important energy policy legislation becomes law to benefit Missouri consumers.

Have your voice heard by reaching out to your senator and representative and encouraging them to support rate cap legislation. For more information on SB 564, visit www.powerforwardmo.com, which features a new video about this important legislation.



Ameren Workers Assist with Energy Grid Recovery in Puerto Rico

Crews from Missouri and Illinois Accelerating Power Restoration Effort

Approximately 75 Ameren line workers and support personnel from Missouri and Illinois flew to Puerto Rico recently. Their mission is to repair energy infrastructure and ultimately help restore power to the citizens of Puerto Rico following the catastrophic destruction to the island's electric infrastructure following Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Ameren and other U.S. energy companies, who are members of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI), are part of a contingent of 1,500 additional personnel arriving from the United States, increasing the total number of power restoration workers in Puerto Rico to more than 5,500. Ameren crews will be deployed for three week rotations. Equipment from Ameren, including trucks and trailers, left by barge from Norfolk, Virginia in mid-January and arrived on Jan. 26, the same day that workers arrived.

“This restoration mission is a massive, unprecedented mutual aid effort,” said Warner Baxter, chairman, president and CEO of Ameren Corporation. “We wish our co-workers, who volunteered for this assignment, and other crews from across the industry safe travels as they do extraordinary work to bring the power back to the citizens of Puerto Rico.”

The island has been sectored into seven regions for purposes of the restoration. Ameren co-workers will work in the Carolina Region, located on the northeast coast immediately east of San Juan.

"The arrival of more crews in Puerto Rico is the culmination of months of planning and building operating and logistical infrastructure," said Ray Wiesehan, vice president of Corporate Security and Crisis Management for Ameren. "Our teams, working with industry colleagues, EEI and the local energy company, are ready to accelerate the power restoration process for the people of Puerto Rico."

EEI recently presented Ameren Missouri and Ameren Illinois with the association's "Emergency Assistance Award" for outstanding work assisting customers impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Harvey in September 2017. The award is presented to EEI member companies to recognize an outstanding response in assisting other electric companies in power restoration efforts after service has been disrupted by severe weather conditions or other natural events.



Attendance Soars at Lake of the Ozarks Eagle Days

More than 3,700 attendees braved the frigid weather in early January for a popular winter event at the Lake of the Ozarks, the annual *Ameren Missouri Lake of the Ozarks Eagle Days*. This year was by far the most successful, entertaining and educational event in its 18-year history. In 1999, the first live eagle program attracted

651 participants. Since then the community spirit at the Lake of the Ozarks has made attendance at this event soar.

Alan Sullivan, engineer at Osage Energy Center representing Ameren Missouri, educated attendees during the program on Ameren Missouri's Avian Protection program and the company's commitment to the environment.

Other highlights of this program included live eagles from the World Bird Sanctuary, with naturalists on hand to answer questions at Osage National Golf Resort; close up photo opportunities of wild eagles at the Willmore Lodge below the Bagnell Dam on the Osage River; activities for kids at School of the Osage Heritage Elementary featuring coloring contests, and two programs given by the Dickerson Park Zoo on the bald eagle and the owl.

Ameren Missouri's Lake of the Ozark Eagle Days is made possible by a collective partnership with the Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitor Bureau, Lake Area Chamber, Osage National Golf Resort, FaceLift Marketing, School of the Osage, Missouri Master Naturalist – Lake of the Ozarks Chapter, and Boy Scouts of America. For questions about Ameren Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks Eagle Days call 1-800-386-5253. For more Eagle Day information, [LIKE](#) their Facebook page.



Power Profile: Dan Mehan, Missouri Chamber of Commerce

Working Hard to Move Missouri Forward

Dan Mehan is bullish on Missouri. As leader of the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he travels around the state constantly meeting with business leaders and local Chamber groups to promote growth and development in the state. He has been leading the charge for a better Missouri and is optimistic about the state's future.

Mehan has long been in the trenches when it comes to education, politics and government in Missouri. He worked in development years ago for Washington University in St. Louis and later as a staff assistant to former Senator Christopher S. "Kit" Bond. In Sept. 1994, he was hired to be a lobbyist for the Missouri Chamber and six weeks later was named vice president of governmental affairs for the organization. Nineteen years ago, he was promoted to the top post at the Chamber -- president and CEO.

He was at the helm in 2008 when the Great Recession shook up the economy and hit Missouri businesses hard.

"We went into a tailspin, and companies were having a tough time," Mehan said. "At that time our board of directors challenged us to get with our dedicated members and to find a way to reinvest in the state of Missouri."

With the help of a national consultant, the Chamber conducted 1,050 interviews with business and industrial leaders, which led to creation of “Missouri 2030,” a strategic plan to move Missouri forward. Mehan calls the data developed for the plan “bullet proof.” His life these days is dedicated toward putting elements of the plan into action.

If you ask him about Missouri 2030, you’ll get an earful. He notes it is all about these four things: developing talent for job recruitment and retention; competitiveness and creating a good regulatory climate for the state; improving the state’s infrastructure; and uniting the business community.

Improving the state’s utility infrastructure is one of the main features of Senate Bill 564, now awaiting debate in the Missouri Senate. It would allow for modernization of the state’s utility grid and put a cap on rate hikes to protect consumers.

Mehan says the Missouri Chamber is supportive of the approach the bill takes, but he is mindful of the fact that his group includes energy creators, and end users.

“We need to do something to modernize and secure the grid,” he said. “We have to have reliable and affordable energy.” He also noted that cyber security is important.

“This is a huge issue,” he noted. “It is the new modern version of warfare. Intruders could take apart your data, shut down utilities and electrical systems, and destroy you financially. Larger companies can defend against it, but the small to mid-sized firms are really at risk.”

Improving the state’s infrastructure is a key part of Missouri 2030, he says, because “it is essential for economic growth. It creates the platform from which you are able to create jobs and economic activity.”

Mehan proudly reports that 107 local Chambers of Commerce have become part of a new group called the Missouri Chamber Federation, created as part of Missouri 2030. He notes that Gov. Eric Greitens and leaders of the Missouri House and Senate are very supportive of policies to move the state forward.

“We are moving to put Missouri in the upper echelon of states when it comes to competitiveness and business attraction,” he declared. “I have never been as bullish on Missouri as I am right now.”