



State Capitol  
Room 224  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

**PETER KINDER**  
Lieutenant Governor

Contact: Gary McElyea  
573-751-1088  
Gary.McElyea@ltgov.mo.gov

---

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2008

### **Lt. Governor Kinder, Lawmakers Call for Special Legislative Session**

*Lawmakers would act now on providing \$103 million for heating assistance*

**JEFFERSON CITY** – Lt. Governor Peter Kinder today joined with a bipartisan group of lawmakers to call on Gov. Matt Blunt to convene a special session of the Missouri Legislature immediately following the General Election. The special session would ensure that lawmakers can act early in providing \$103 million in supplemental funds for LIHEAP (Low Income Heating Assistance Program.)

“Throughout the summer I have traveled the state talking with Missouri senior citizens and public service groups in my capacity as Missouri’s Official Senior Advocate,” Lt. Governor Kinder said. “I started talking about how the state helps to make prescription drugs more affordable, but the conversations seemed to turn towards people expressing concern that they could not afford the rising cost of heating their homes this winter. What I saw were proud Missourians who were worried they were being pushed over the edge by costs they could not control.”

Today, legislators from across the state joined Lt. Governor Kinder in his call to provide necessary funding following the November election. The supplemental Utilicare funds are normally taken up when the General Assembly convenes in January. Lt. Governor Kinder urged Gov. Blunt to act now to ensure the funds were available for Missouri seniors and low-income citizens before the harshest months of winter.

-MORE-

“While our efforts each year have been genuine, they have fallen short in providing help when it is truly needed,” said Lt. Governor Kinder. “Providing this money to low-income Missourians in February is beneficial, but with energy costs as they are, it is too late to have the effect that is needed. This special session can provide assistance to Missourians before the high energy costs of the winter set in.”

The majority of Missourians use natural gas and propane to heat their homes and those commodities have experienced extreme volatility this summer. The average cost of heating a home will rise this winter an estimated \$175 per household.

Lt. Governor Kinder also requested that lawmakers address additional funding for weatherization programs. Missouri’s weatherization program has become an excellent way to reduce energy usage for Missourians.

Lt. Governor Kinder praised utilities in Missouri who have lead the way on weatherization programs, and he encouraged the state to start investing more in energy efficiency. The additional funding invested in weatherizing would help Missouri homeowners save energy and to save money in the years to come.

The group of legislators today also called for lawmakers to address the issue of rising diesel fuel costs for school districts throughout the state. With school districts facing tightened local budgets, Lt. Governor Kinder requested that legislators discuss the rising cost of utilities and diesel fuel for school districts in the state.

Lt. Governor Kinder also encouraged Missourians to call upon their elected representative to support his call for a special legislative session.

###