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MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

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July 14, 2005

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 525 entitled:

“AN ACT”

To repeal sections 105.466, 105.473, 105.485, 105.487, 105.489, 105.492, 105.957, 105.961, 105.963, 105.971, 105.973, 115.157, 115.315, 115.327, 130.011, 130.021, 130.036, 130.041, 130.046, 130.049, 130.050, and 130.057, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof twenty-two new sections relating to ethics, with penalty provisions.

I disapprove of House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 525. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

This bill amends §105.473 RSMo in a manner that would remove a provision requiring a lobbyist or lobbyist principal to file information with the Missouri Ethics Commission that discloses which legislative initiatives that the lobbyist or lobbyist principal supports or opposes. Further, the required disclosure identifies who retained the lobbyists' services for the listed legislative initiatives.

Current law enables the Ethics Commission to amass this important information and create a useful repository of lobbyists' and lobbyist principals' activities for Missouri citizens. This provides all Missourians, including journalists and other news organizations, with a valuable resource that allows them to determine what legislative initiatives their elected officials are being asked to consider by special interest groups, corporations and other interested parties.

It is important for citizens to be aware of the activities of well organized and well funded special interests groups and other entities.

For all of the reasons mentioned above, I am returning House Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 525 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Blunt".

Matt Blunt
Governor