

MISSOURI TRAVEL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

From: Dale Amick 5/8/09

The Missouri Senate and House have truly agreed to and finally passed a new state budget that includes a \$23.7 million budget for the Division of Tourism.

The \$23.7 million figure is the same as recommended by Gov. Jay Nixon and the same budget level as the Division has for the current fiscal year. The Division is one of the few state agencies not to see a cut in their new budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

Thanks should go to the budget chairman in the Senate and House, Sen. Gary Nodler of Joplin and Rep. Allen Icet of St. Louis County, for their support of the tourism and travel industry.

Also passed this week in the legislature was a major \$380 million federal stimulus spending bill that includes major state construction projects all across the state.

Even with this stimulus spending bill, along with the federal budget stabilization money placed in the new state budget, the state will still keep about \$1 billion in federal stimulus money in reserve for future spending.