

## **MISSOURI TRAVEL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**From: Dale Amick 1/21/10**

**Despite the worst budgetary situation in recent memory, Gov. Jay Nixon has recommended 20.4 million dollar budget for the Division of Tourism. That figure is about one million dollars less than the legislature approved last year for the agency.**

**While cutting over 250 million dollars from other state agency budgets and reducing the state payroll by another 500 jobs in his new budget recommendations, the governor has closely maintained state spending for the Division of Tourism. This is a first-step victory for the industry and now we must work to keep the governor's funding level as it goes through the budget process in the legislature.**

**The governor released his budget recommendations after his "State of the State" address January 20. Most state agencies took heavy budget cuts in his new budget. That will mean numerous groups and organizations will come to Jefferson City in the coming weeks to seek restoration of budget cuts for their specific issues. That is why it is paramount those in the tourism and travel industry talk to their legislators about keeping the governor's funding level for the Division of tourism.**

**Thank you must go to Gov. Jay Nixon and Division Director Katie Steele Danner for their strong stand in support of the tourism and travel industry.**