



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
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July 1, 2013

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Senate Bill No. 265 entitled:

AN ACT

To amend chapter 1, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to prohibition on certain policies that infringe on private property rights.

I disapprove of Senate Bill No. 265. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

Senate Bill No. 265 is broadly drafted legislation directed primarily at a United Nations resolution adopted more than 20 years ago. This resolution, known as Agenda 21, provides a general blueprint for sustainable development. It imposes no mandates on state or local governments and not a single pejorative action in Missouri has been tied to it.

Senate Bill No. 265 would force ambiguously worded restrictions on state and local governments. Specifically, the legislation would prohibit the adoption or implementation of "recommendations" that "infringe or restrict private property rights without due process" if the action "originates in, or [is] traceable to Agenda 21...or any other international law or ancillary plan of action that contravenes the Constitution of the United States or the Missouri Constitution."

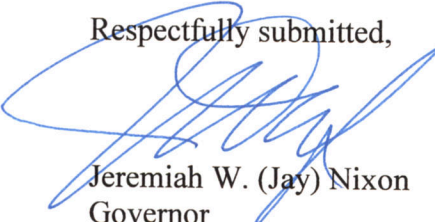
Although there is no evidence that Agenda 21 is spurring governmental action across our state, Senate Bill No. 265 would nevertheless require that governmental entities become knowledgeable about its content as well as "any other international law or ancillary plan of action" and then make the undefined determination whether a proposed action is "traceable" to any of those sources. This bizarre and burdensome analysis must be accomplished through a prism of difficult to comprehend language that will waste public resources and impose needless confusion where none is necessary. It is Senate Bill No. 265 that is the problem, not the obscure and little known Agenda 21.

It is fundamentally misguided and unnecessary to require local government officials to become international law experts in order to perform their duties. This legislation would spawn endless litigation frivolously attacking governmental action based on a belief that a two decades old United Nations resolution is somehow shaping decisions regarding such issues as health codes

and road projects. And it is absurd for a city council making a zoning decision to find it necessary to retain a high priced attorney specializing in international law for the purpose of needlessly chasing imaginary shadows around corners. The premise of Senate Bill No. 265, to the extent it is discernible, is wrong and the solution it puts forth is worse.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Senate Bill No. 265 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", is written over the printed name and title.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor