



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 720
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July 2, 2013

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 64.196, 135.305, 142.800, 348.521, 442.571, and 442.576, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof ten new sections relating to agriculture.

I disapprove of Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342. My reasons for disapproval are as follows:

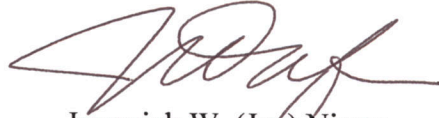
Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342 contains several worthwhile provisions that have been approved as part of other legislation; however, the bill would also exempt business entities in Cape Girardeau County from a statewide standard aimed at protecting the health and safety of school children. Existing law protects school children by prohibiting the Land Reclamation Commission and the Department of Natural Resources from permitting mining operations within 1,000 feet of any property on which an accredited school has been located for at least five years (Sec. 444.771, RSMo). Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342 would eliminate this protection for school children in Cape Girardeau County and nowhere else. It is generally objectionable to excuse a select industry or company from an existing standard to which all other like entities are held. It is even more offensive to suggest that school children in Cape Girardeau County should receive any less protection than children in all other parts of the state.

Also, Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342 would allow up to 1% of Missouri agricultural land to be foreign owned. Whether, or to what degree, Missouri agricultural land should be foreign owned is an important policy choice for the people of Missouri, a decision that should be made through their elected representatives and only after the specific proposal has been sufficiently vetted and openly considered. However, this provision was inserted into Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342 without the benefit of a hearing that would have allowed for public

testimony. In addition, the measure was rejected by at least one legislative committee on agriculture as well as publicly opposed by leading Missouri agricultural groups.

In accordance with the above stated reasons for disapproval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute for House Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 342 without my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor