



For more information:

Traci Gleason, Director of Communications, 816-872-8133
Amy Blouin, Executive Director, 314-518-8867

*For Immediate Release:
April 1, 2014*

Senate Passes \$799 Million Tax Scheme Based on Failing Kansas Policies

Statement from Amy Blouin, Executive Director

Because Missourians deserve an economic plan that is more than just empty promises, the Missouri Budget Project is very disappointed that the Senate passed SB 509.

While initial approval came before a fiscal note had even been established, the official fiscal note puts the cost of the tax scheme at \$620 million per year. However, using more current tax data, the Missouri Budget Project estimates that it will cost \$799 million per year when fully implemented –the equivalent of one-fourth of state aid to support local K-12 schools.

Supporters of SB 509 say Missouri should cut taxes to compete with Kansas. But Kansas' massive tax cuts have deepened the damage done by the recession to schools, colleges and universities, and other key services – all while failing to improve the state's economic performance. Even Governor Brownback's own Council of Economic Advisors recently found that Kansas lagged behind other states in most indicators of economic activity. The message is clear: Missouri does not want to be the next Kansas.

While legislators pass tax cuts willy-nilly, Missourians wait for a real plan for economic growth. Rather than throwing darts, legislators should focus on what works: investing in strong education, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and safe, stable communities.

###