

YOUR VIEW

More tampering

As a rural property owner in Missouri, I was very concerned to learn that the General Assembly is considering bills to drastically reduce, and essentially abolish, Missourians' rights to protect their properties.

I am specifically referring to SB 187 and SB 278. These bills would limit family farmers, rural landowners and communities from protecting their properties from the negative impacts of concentrated animal feeding operations.

Since this country was founded, we have set ourselves apart from many other nations with our robust property rights. Access to our court systems, in particular, has given all citizens the right to redress. While I understand large corporate agribusinesses' pressure for protecting their interests, as a resident of Missouri, I believe we, in Missouri, cannot afford to protect these agribusinesses over the rights of the majority of family farm-

ers and rural landowners. I also believe that most Missouri residents would agree.

The real threat of nuisance suits is directed at CAFOs, not independent family farmers, as some would have you believe. In fact, nuisance lawsuits are filed by independent family farmers, whose lives have been made intolerable from nearby CAFOs.

This proposed legislation is bad for rural Missouri and bad for independent family farmers.

Big agribusinesses have deep pockets and have lined the pockets of too many Missouri legislators. It's time we take back our rights before we lose them all to corporate greed. Call your legislator today.

Julie Fisher
Columbia

Utility rates shouldn't rise

I am both appalled and astounded by the unmitigated gall of Empire District Electric Co. and Missouri Gas Energy in requesting any type of rate increase while our na-

tion, and our area in particular, is undergoing such dire economic circumstances.

It is beyond comprehension that they assume they can justify one scintilla of an increase. While the rest of us struggle to merely survive, these companies, their investors, and even their employees, enjoy obscenely outrageous profits and benefits.

So very many of us are subjected to heat discomfort in the summer, and cold discomfort in the winter because we can't afford the cost of comfort. On a daily basis we have to make a choice between food, housing, medicine, etc.

Their "need" for additional funds, for any reason, is tantamount to perpetuating a fraud upon their customers.

If they can't operate within their current financial structures, then they need to implement some serious restructuring. Their greed is beyond abhorrent.

Have the members of the Public Service Commission lost all concept of who the public actually is? Have they totally lost sight of the exigent circumstances of the ma-

ajority of the Middle American constituency? We can't take another hit of any kind!

Our powers that be in Washington have determined, for two consecutive years, there's been no increase in the cost of living, and denied those of us on fixed incomes a COL raise.

PSC, stop the Empire and MGE madness now. Their greed and total lack of consideration for their consumers are incomprehensible. At no time should their profit margins matter more than the welfare of the majority of the actual consumers.

Charlotte Jay
Webb City

Deficit won't disappear

There is a way to cut Washington spending, and the Wisconsin Legislature has shown us what it is. If the politicians aren't going to negotiate, they can stay home and mail their votes in, and we can pay them exactly what their worth.

We can take Watson to Washington, and let a machine do the thinking they

won't do. The improvement in performance will be amazing; Watson will get done more in an hour than Congress does all year.

We spend almost as much on the military as the rest of the world combined. Obama and the Pentagon plan to cut the debt by decreasing the increases (profiles in courage).

The Pentagon budget is twice the size of the discretionary budget. The amount of milk Obama and Congress have squeezed out of this cow is a joke, because the cow is almost dry.

We couldn't get rid of the deficit if we got rid of the discretionary budget cow. We have been screwed over by the military industrial complex — no billionaire left behind and tax credits for shipping jobs to Asia.

This isn't economic voodoo, it's nutting on the Minnow. Gilligan was thrown overboard and replaced by Ginger, who won't do anything the skipper tells her; because she only takes orders from the millionaire — Mr. Howell.

SOPUN GUESS Mar 13, 2011

PENGAD 800-631-6989

EXHIBIT

Exh #3