

## **Speaker Pro Tem**

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## **MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CARL BEARDEN State Representative District 16**

July 12, 2007

The Honorable Rod Jetton  
Speaker, Missouri House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker,

When we arrived in Jefferson City on November 9, 2000, we were prepared to change the world or at least the state. We were in the minority but determined to take the majority and make a difference.

On November 6, 2002, we arrived in Jefferson City as members of the new majority, prepared to change the direction of our state. Beginning with the election of the first woman Speaker in the state's history, we certainly set the pace for change and demonstrated our commitment to achieving it.

Since taking the majority, we have seen tough economic times and made wise decisions to address them. We accomplished this while protecting important areas of state-wide concern such as education and healthcare.

We faced a state economy that was being held back by poor public policy and took action to change those failed policies.

Now, nearly seven years later, our state economy is doing better than anytime in our history thanks to prudent, fiscally responsible changes to public policy: K-12 enjoys historic levels of funding, higher education reforms are in place to insure students are put first, a new healthcare system has been developed that will provide quality healthcare with increased emphasis on staying well for the neediest among us, and sanctity of life has been given even more protections than when we began our endeavors. We have made great strides toward achieving what we set out to do, make a positive difference in making our state a better place to live, work, and raise our families.

The opportunities I have had to play a role in reshaping our state exceeded anything I could have imagined. Just being a member of the Missouri House of Representatives and serving with the colleagues on both sides of the aisle during my tenure is a tremendous privilege. Add to that serving as Budget Chairman and being elected Speaker Pro Tem are memories that will be with me for the rest of my life.

Term limits have played a role in the opportunity we have had to change our state. All in all, term limits have worked as they were envisioned but I think most people with direct experience would agree that the public would be better served with a twelve year term limit. Despite media reports to the contrary, term limits have not had a significant impact on the legislative process, unless you are one of those who don't like the taxpayer-accountable state government now in place thanks in part to those limits.

Just as term limits created many of the opportunities to reshape our state, they create decision points as well. With that in mind, I hereby tender my resignation as Speaker Pro Tem and Representative from the 16<sup>th</sup> District effective at 11:59pm on July 12, 2007. I request that my staff remain in place until such time as a new Speaker Pro Tem is elected. Beyond that period, I further request that someone remain in place to provide assistance to the constituents of the 16<sup>th</sup> District as may be required.

It has been a great privilege and reward to serve with you and my other colleagues throughout my four terms. This has been a chapter in my life that I will never forget. Together we have changed our state. I thank the residents of District 16 and my colleagues for making this all possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl L. Bearden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carl" being more prominent.

Carl Bearden  
Speaker Pro Tem  
Missouri House of Representatives

cc: Adam Crumbliss, Chief Clerk