

MISSOURI SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS COALITION

MEMORANDUM

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRI-BUSINESS
FROM: MIKE LODEWEGEN
SUBJECT: HCR 16
DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2014
CC:

As you consider HCR 16, we ask that you consider the following points regarding the assessment of agricultural property. This memo is intended to lay out the reasons why our member organizations and the 4,300 superintendents, principals and central office staff that they represent oppose the passage of HCR 16.

- **Under the current process of assessing agricultural land, values for this type of property have been allowed to increase just one time since 1997, while the price of farmland has skyrocketed during the same time period.**
- **Rural districts are most affected by stagnant state funding for the foundation formula and severe cuts to categoricals like transportation meaning that these districts are at a disadvantage compared to districts with a traditional business tax base in seeking assistance from their local taxpayers to make up the shortfall.**
- **Limiting the value of agricultural property shifts the tax burden to homeowners and other businesses in rural communities.**
- **Increasing the values of agricultural land would result in the equivalent of a property tax cut for homeowners and businesses in rural Missouri.**
- **If the formula were to be changed to allow a school district's local effort to be recalculated, increases in property values of agricultural property would decrease the total amount of state general revenue to be spent on the state's foundation formula.**

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding HCR 16 or if you wish to discuss this issue or our position in greater detail.

Missouri Association of School Administrators • Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals
Missouri Association Secondary School Principals • Missouri Association of School Business Officials
Missouri Council of Administrators of Special Education • Missouri Association of Rural Education
Missouri United School Insurance Council • Missouri State High School Activities Association
Missouri K-8 Association



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