



Missouri House of Representatives

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CONTACT: State Rep. Brad Christ
573-751-2150
Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov

Rep. Brad Christ files HB 499 to encourage investment in distressed communities

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – An effort to spur investment in some of the areas of Missouri in most need of development is one of the bills proposed by State Representative Brad Christ, for the upcoming legislative session. House Bill 499 would establish Earnings Tax Opportunity Zones in areas designated by federal law as “distressed communities.” City earnings taxes would not be imposed on salaries of those who live in or perform work in those zones, or on the profits of businesses who perform work in those zones.

“These distressed areas are parts of Missouri that would benefit most from economic development and job creation, and we should encourage and reward those who choose to provide the economic stimulus those regions need,” Representative Christ said.

The federal government has identified more than 160 such zones in Missouri in 39 counties and the City of St. Louis.

“There are places all over the state that could benefit from an economic shot in the arm, where good workers just need more opportunities. If this bill passes, it will be one more tool that could help support those Missourians, and thereby improve the state’s economy.”

Representative Christ, R-St. Louis, made the same proposal in the 2024 legislative session and will continue advocating for it in the legislative session that begins January 8. The legislation mirrors a proposal that has been filed in the Missouri Senate.

Representative Brad Christ, a Republican, represents part of St. Louis County (District 96) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Christ at 573-751-2150 or by email at Brad.Christ@House.Mo.Gov.