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Michael Burton

State Representative
District 92

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2025

Rep. Michael Burton Responds to Governor Kehoe's National Guard Activation

ST. LOUIS, MO - Today, State Representative Michael Burton (D–District 92) issued the following statement in response to Governor Mike Kehoe's declaration of a state of emergency and the activation of the Missouri National Guard:

"Let me be clear. There is no need for the Missouri National Guard to be deployed at this time. The activation of military personnel in response to peaceful protests does nothing but inflate anxiety and increase tensions. Missourians have the constitutional right to peacefully assemble and make their voices heard without being met with armed force or intimidation."

"It is deeply troubling that the National Guard can be deployed preemptively in response to hypothetical unrest, when real, immediate disaster struck in St. Louis and surrounding areas during recent devastating tornadoes, the National Guard was not immediately mobilized to provide help. Families were left to fend for themselves as homes were leveled, lives were uprooted and critical services were delayed."

"This is not the leadership I was hoping for, it's posturing. Missouri deserves a government that meets people with compassion and assistance, not intimidation."

Rep. Burton is calling on the Governor to rescind Executive Order 25-25, respect the rights of Missourians to protest peacefully, and direct state resources to where they are most urgently needed. The Governor's focus should be on supporting communities recovering from disaster and addressing real public safety needs across the state.

State Representative Michael Burton