June 15, 2001

Rep. Akin Applauds EPA Announcement

Decision represents fair and levelheaded approach to solving air quality problem

Congressman Todd Akin made the following statement today regarding EPA Secretary Whitman's Announcement on the Air Quality Status of the St. Louis Region:

"I commend the decision by Secretary Whitman and the EPA to grant the St. Louis Region an extension on our efforts to attain compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. I believe that this decision represents a fair and levelheaded approach to solving our region's air quality problem.

"The various stakeholders in our region, both public and private, have made a concerted effort in an attempt to gain compliance with the CAA of 1990. By working in close cooperation with state and federal regulators, they have taken the required measures to improve our region's air quality. The results have paid off. Last year, our region experienced only one bad air quality day.

"A punitive measure would have only caused unnecessary economic suffering in our region without addressing air quality. Today's announcement is great news for the region's businesses and residents of Missouri. I am glad that EPA chose this fair and balanced approach to help address our outstanding air quality issues."