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What is the biggest Environmental Issue facing Missouri today?

Need for Clean Renewable Energy and sustainable farming.

As a community health nurse, I am gravely concerned about the health problems caused by environmental hazards from CAFOs and dependence on fossil fuels.

These hazards include: Factory farms (CAFOs) that utilize pesticides and antibiotics due to overcrowding of the animals to control disease spread among the animals. Unfortunately, this contributes to increased antibiotic resistant strains and contamination of air and ground water. The heavy rainfall we have experienced also has increased waste contamination of the water supply. I would support policy that would decentralize the agricultural operations to support family farms. This also would help the economy of a region by creating jobs, protecting the environment and reducing health risks and costs.

I would support more subsidies for farms that utilize crop rotation, cover crops, and lo-till farming that disrupts pesticide life cycles and protect the top-soil. I would recommend more government oversight of companies that control the CAFOs to avoid the vertical down review of their operations that focus more on high productivity and lower cost.

Although I am not happy for the need for a government bailout of our economic crisis caused by the philosophy of market forces and competition, I am pleased there were tax credits for renewable energy programs. I am confident that the consumer will demand more of government to lessen dependence on fossil fuel in general and increase programs for wind, solar and water power. I am a supporter of Proposition C and M and it is essential that they pass for sound energy, economic and environmental policy for Missouri.

I am a firm believer in open records especially for potential polluters and oppose any bill that will make a company's internal audit procedures and programs unavailable for public record. The fox watching the chicken coop didn't work on Wall Street and should never be considered again as public policy. Cost is always the bottom line, but prevention has always paid off in the long run.