

## **Updates**

Below is a summary of methods SCC has used to inform and correspond with Independence Power and Light (IPL).

## **Weekly Legislative and Covid-19 Reports**

Each week, Strategic Capitol Consulting (SCC) provided IPL a legislative summary of key action taken by the Missouri General Assembly, the Parson Administration, public policy issues, updates on the supplemental FY2020 and FY2021 budget. The reports also included a separate bill report regarding all bills being tracked by SCC for IPL. SCC tracked a total of 113 bills for IPL in 2020.

As Covid-19 began to spread in Missouri and the General Assembly went on break, SCC began providing in-depth pandemic related reports that included updates on each of Governor Mike Parson's daily briefings, summary of any actions taken by state agencies, updates on stay at home orders across the state, CDC guidelines, the federal CAREs Act, unemployment in Missouri, Covid-19 related resources, day-by-day timeline of all action taken by the Parson Administration related to the pandemic, positive cases and deaths reported by the Department of Health and Senior Services and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering

An example of each of these reports are attached.

## **Weekly and Bi-Weekly Conference Calls**

On a weekly and sometimes bi-weekly basis SCC and IPL hosted conference calls to discuss top legislative priorities, action taken by the General Assembly and the Parson Administration and opportunities evolving for IPL to take advantage of.

## **Mid-session Presentation**

SCC Founding Partner Steven Tilley was scheduled to provide a mid-session legislative report on Monday, March 23. This presentation was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **Public Policy**

Below is a summary of public policy issues SCC has worked on behalf of IPL. Issues include but are not limited to cable franchise fee legislation, urban broadband, Grain Belt Expressway expansion and small cell pole attachment fees. Because of legislation SCC has helped pass, prevented from becoming law and other issues SCC has worked on, IPL has saved or generated revenue more than making it up for its annual retainer fee.

## **Cable Franchise Fee Legislation**

SCC successfully participated in killing proposed cable franchise fee legislation. An amendment eliminating the fee was added to Senate Bill 1700 on Thursday, May 14. The City of Independence was facing a loss in revenue of over \$1 million that would have resulted in and at least 10 full-time police officers, firefighters and first responders full-time positions being eliminated if this legislation passed.

SCC was able to help kill this legislation by working with the Missouri Municipal League and members of the Senate. For example, senators such as Senator John Rizzo, Senator Jill Schupp, Senator Scott Sifton, Senator Jamilah Nasheed and Senator Brian Williams were provided talking points on how eliminating the franchise fee would directly impact the municipalities in their districts and the importance of the revenue generated from the fee.

## **Urban Broadband Expansion**

SCC Lobbyist Jake Silverman worked with the Missouri Department of Economic Development in collaboration with IPL to identify options for broadband expansion. It was decided that IPL should

explore the City of Springfield's private partnership plan. SCC will continue to guide IPL through this process. It is SCC's understanding that the Parson Administration will be reviewing the served vs. unserved map to identify underserved spots in urban areas currently categorized as served.

### **Grain Belt Expressway Legislation**

SCC monitored Grain Belt Expressway legislation during the 2020 legislative session. Most provisions related to the Grain Belt project would essentially block Grain Belt Express developers from using eminent domain to secure property along its planned route. The long-distance, high-voltage transmission line would move up to 4,000 megawatts of wind power from central Kansas across Missouri and Illinois.

As session came to a close and eminent domain language not moving much prior to the Covid-19 related break, an amendment was added to a bill drafted to change the ways gas companies deal with government-mandated infrastructure surcharges. The amendment prevented Grain Belt's developer from employing eminent domain along desired route. Grain Belt legislation became tied up with cable franchise fee and wayfair legislation this year and was unable to pass.

### **Utility Legislation**

SCC tracked and reported to IPL updates on any legislation directly impacting utility companies.

### **Small Cell Pole Attachment Fees**

In previous years, SCC was able negotiate small cell pole attachment fees for IPL. Small cells supplement traditional antennas on cellular towers and are designed to improve the speed and reliability of data connectivity to cell phones and mobile devices. Small cells can be deployed on monopoles, utility and streetlight poles and even on buildings. This is an emerging technology that is intended to build capacity for the rapidly expanding market demand for high-speed wireless services.

SCC's negotiations on behalf of IPL resulted in the fees being raised to some of the highest in the country - \$150.00 per pole.

### **Truman Library Institute**

SCC also lobbies on behalf of the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. In the last two years, SCC has secured almost \$6 million in state funding for the Institute to go towards major capital improvement projects.