

March 8, 2015

After writing the “Loop” from my desk in War Memorial 105, I will attempt to make the drive home before the roads go from bad to worse on a very slippery and hazardous Interstate 40. Thirty members were not able to make it for session this Thursday morning due to what I hope is winter’s last winter storm hoorahrah. How’s that global warming going for you all? LOL

We were told that the Senate is scheduled to begin closing their committees in two weeks. Well that is just fine and dandy, I am all about working efficiently and effectively and in a timely fashion; however, we are 99 members and a committee system that is double to that of the Senate side. Monday night, we will begin hearing and voting on the first batch of bills to come to the Chamber. In order to prevent foolish and rash decisions, let alone tension so high you can cut it with a knife, a moderate pass would be most appropriate concerning the people’s business.

On the radar:

HB833: EPA (or as I call ‘em, Employment Prevention Agency) is at it again. Having diminished hundreds, if not thousands of jobs over the years, the feds are determined to bleed the most abundant, reliable and affordable energy source into oblivion. Tennessee is the only state in the nation that mines coal but doesn’t oversee its own regulatory program. With enough coal in our state to last for 200 years, Tennessee is loaded with this natural resource. That means low energy cost to our homes; now that is true sustainable energy!!!! Passage of this (let our coal folk go) will return oversight to us, where it belongs. Please support this!

HB 1341: Will be heard in Civil Justice Sub March 11th. I am very passionate about this legislation which ensures Tennessee does not have to carry Uncle Sam’s water when it comes to implementing federal gun laws, rules, and regulations that restrict our 2nd Amendment right to bear arms. Please support.

HB1152: As chair of Transportation Sub, I have asked for a special hearing so members of my committee are well-informed of an ongoing fight between the Airport Authority and five off-airport parking providers in the city. Basically, this is small business versus a government agency and the shuttle fees are the “bone” of contention. Hopefully, the entities involved can work out their differences and we will not have to proceed with legislation. You can watch via video streaming and hear the arguments for yourself.

Budget hearings were conducted throughout this past week, giving members the nuts-n-bolts of where we are in each Department. The \$33.3 billion budget proposed by Governor Haslam basically gets a high five from us lawmakers with one exception, and that would be the plan to end the longevity pay for state employees. I have signed a petition that asks for the repeal of that plan. I have heard from my constituents and agree taking from Peter to pay Paul is NOT the right way to go about providing for pay raises, if in fact you actually get a pay raise. There was a hearing on the arguments on that topic as well, and can be seen, yep you guessed it , on the Tennessee General Assembly website.

Well, it’s getting dark outside and the roads are going to get icier, so I had better head to the wild frontier of Smith County. As always, it is a pleasure and an honor to serve you. Kudos to the many fabulous folks of the fortieth who came to Legislative Plaza last this week. This is your office. Having you engaged in the process is what truly makes this the people’s place. Yes indeed, government is best when it serves closest to the people, well-said, Thomas Jefferson.

I would like to invite you to participate in my Coffee and Conversations, on Friday morning once a month in your county.

The following is the updated schedule throughout District 40, through May 2015:

1st Friday, 7:30-9:00 DeKalb County, Social Blendz, 310 West Broad St., Smithville

2nd Friday, 7:30-9:00 Trousdale County, L & T Early Bird Café, 202 McMurry Blvd, Hartsville

3rd Friday, 7:30-9:00 Smith County, Smith Co Chamber. 939 Upper Ferry Rd, Carthage

4th Friday, 7:30-8:30 Sumner County, *The Gallatin Chamber of Commerce hosts a 4th Friday Government Relations Meeting, which is open to the public, at Sumner Regional Medical Center, 555 Hartsville Pike, Gallatin, and includes local, county, and state officials.

Also, every two weeks I will be posting a “video loop” link on Facebook and my website.

Till next time,

Blessings,

Terri Lynn Weaver