

# NEWS RELEASE

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## State Rep. Luke Scavuzzo

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## **Republicans force through committee passage of Aquila bill**

*Rep. Scavuzzo pledges to fight legislation on the House floor*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Rep. Luke Scavuzzo vowed to continue fighting legislation approved today by a House committee that seeks to grant retroactive active approval for an Aquila Inc. power plant in Cass County that the Missouri Court of Appeals Western District has twice ruled was illegally built and should be dismantled.

The House Special Committee on Utilities endorsed the measure, HB 2468, on a party-line vote of 6-5, with Republicans in favor and Democrats opposed. State Rep. Michael Parson, R-Bolivar, provided the decisive sixth vote necessary for passage. Parson wasn't a member of the committee until Wednesday, when he was appointed to the panel shortly before it held a public hearing on the controversial bill.

At the hearing opponents of the bill far outnumbered supporters. A group of Cass County residents, including county Presiding Commissioner Gary Mallory, testified against the bill, as did representatives of the Missouri Municipal League and the Missouri Association of Counties.

Scavuzzo, who represents the area where Aquila's South Harper plant is located, said the fight against the bill will continue when it comes before the full House of Representatives for debate.

"Opponents of Aquila have prevailed every step of the way in the courts, which is why the company is looking to the legislature to retroactively forgive its past illegal actions," said Scavuzzo, D-Harrisonville. "The committee vote was just the opening skirmish in the battle against this misguided legislation. I am hopeful the full House will be more critical than the bare majority of committee members who supported this bill."

Even if the bill clears the General Assembly, Scavuzzo said the matter is likely to end up back in court as the measure violates the Missouri Constitution's ban on laws that are retrospective in operation.

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