

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contacts:** Jenna Higgins/NBB 800-841-5849  
Linda Hancock/Bi-State (314) 982-1400, x1518  
Jessica Callow/Mo. Soybean (573) 635-6701

June 4, 2001

### **St. Louis city buses to run on soy-based fuel**

*Sen. Bond makes announcement during energy tour of state*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., announced today in St. Louis that city buses there will begin using biodiesel, a domestically produced, cleaner-burning fuel commonly made from soybean oil. Bond is a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and made the announcement as he wrapped up an energy briefing tour of the state to focus on energy crisis solutions.

"We can solve the crisis by boosting domestic energy production in a way that also protects the environment," he said. "With every passing day, technology is increasingly turning agricultural products into the fuels that power our economy. I see my job as making sure this technological trend continues."

Biodiesel can be used in any diesel engine, usually with no modifications to the engine necessary. It performs comparably to diesel, with similar cetane and BTU content. It is the safest of all fuels to use, handle and store. About 80 major fleets, including other transit authorities use biodiesel and the fuel has been proven successful in more than 40 million road miles. The fuel is nothing new to Bi-State – the agency used it as part of a pilot program several years ago.

"At the end of the 100,000 mile test in our transit buses, we sent the injectors out of one test bus back to the manufacturer for testing and inspection," said Lyle Howard, Bi-State manager of product development. "Their tests showed that after 100,000 miles, the injectors were within specs, showed less than normal wear, and were able to be reinstalled into a bus with no problem."

Howard notes that the St. Louis metropolitan area is very close to being designated as a serious non-attainment area by the Environmental Protection Agency. "In anticipation of this, I have been working very hard to get a B20 biodiesel blend incorporated into all of our transit buses to reduce our pollution level," he said.

Biodiesel is the only alternative fuel to have passed the rigorous Health Effects testing requirements of the Clean Air Act. The results, submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency in 2000, show biodiesel is non-toxic, biodegradable and free of sulfur. Emissions it reduces include carbon monoxide, unburned hydrocarbons and particulate matter.

Soybeans are Missouri's leading cash crop. The Missouri Soybean Association has taken the lead in encouraging the use of soy-based biodiesel in the state.