

SENATOR DON HARMON VISIT
FEBRUARY 27TH, 2019
10 A.M.

FISCAL POLICY: Kathy Nesburg

Senator Harmon is the sponsor of SJRCA, the Fair Tax Amendment to the Illinois Constitution. He thinks that the Senate will vote on the bill this session. He also said that Speaker Madigan supports the bill but is still looking for the necessary 71 votes. Senator Harmon thinks that the income tax should be increased in the interim but is prepared to go along with the governor's plans to raise \$1Billion with smaller sources of revenue such as the cigarette tax. He says that a bill with graduated rates must be passed before the question goes to the voters. There is a question as to whether a super majority is needed on rates. He supports the governor's increased spending proposals. He is most supportive of the K-12 education, early childhood and higher education proposals.

ENVIRONMENT: Carolyn Skipper

Senator Harmon indicated that because of the Future Energy Jobs Act, Illinois leads the nation in Solar jobs; 30,000 jobs. There are more jobs to build the solar systems than to maintain them. However, energy efficient jobs can't be out sourced and people can be easily taught how to do the necessary jobs. Senator Harmon is behind a bill for a uniform property tax method for Solar Farms. He also indicated that downstate Illinois is against Wind Farms.

Senator Harmon indicated that he is unsure about a tax on carbon. A bill may be used to prop up Nuclear Reactors. He will wait to see what is in the carbon tax bill before he decides whether to support it or not. He also discussed Exelon and the Clean Jobs Coalition.

EUDUCATION: Fran Sampson

Gov. Pritzker's education budget set aside 375M a year to reach the goals of EBM. While this exceeds the legislative goal of 350M a year for 10 years, it is still not adaquate for the needs of 83% of Illinois School Districts.

Senator Harmon says the Charter School Commission should not continue to have power to override local school district decisions because they are not held accountable and are not chosen by voters.

Yes the teachers' minimum salary should be increased.

Yes he supports publicly funded preschool.

SB1594 would repeal the need for minors to have Parental consent for abortion.

He needs more information and prefers some form of adult consent, but less cubersom.

GUN VIOLENCE: Diane Moses

He supports universal background checks.

He does not support arming teachers.

He supports a ban on bump stocks and trigger cranks