

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 15, 2018
TO: William Stowe, CEO and General Manager
FROM: Laura Sarcone, Public Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

The 86th Iowa General Assembly gaveled in on Monday, January 8, 2018. The first week was made up of formalities and ceremonies with limited floor action. We are working closely with our contract lobbyist team, Advocacy Strategy, to monitor and react to various issues and proposed legislation.

Of particular interest to Des Moines Water Works:

Water Board Dissolution

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Dan Zumbach assigned a subcommittee to **SF 456 (Water Board Dissolution)**. The subcommittee members are the same as last year, Senator Zumbach as chair, Senator Ken Rozenboom, and Senator Kevin Kinney. The House bill (**HF 484**) was also assigned to a subcommittee: Representative Jarad Klein as chair, Representative Clel Baudler, and Representative Chris Hall. The lobbyist team and contracted public affairs team, Concordia Group, are ready to communicate with legislators and the public on the progress of the Central Iowa Regional Water workgroup. An update to Senator Zumbach on the progress of the workgroup has been offered.

Water Quality Legislation

The lobbyist team learned that the debate between the House and Senate (**SF 512**) water quality bills is not settled between the two chambers' Republican caucuses. It is anticipated that discussions will continue for some time, as the bill's legislative allies and respective interest groups supporters are growing more numerous and entrenched in their positions.

Background:

In the 2017 legislative session, water quality bills from the Iowa House and Iowa Senate had many differences. While neither bill addressed Des Moines Water Works' legislative priorities, the water quality bill in the Iowa House was preferable over the Senate bill. DMWW did not register in favor of either bills. Despite claiming that water quality was a priority, legislators

were unable to come to a consensus on the issue, and in the end no water quality legislation was passed.

Governor Reynolds has repeatedly stated that water quality is the first piece of legislation she hopes to sign in 2018. While water quality legislation is something the Governor is eager to sign, many stakeholders have been left out of the process, with little to no involvement from public health, recreational, and environmental parties. It is the Senate version of the bill that the Governor, Iowa Farm Bureau, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture have been pushing since the last session adjourned. Instead of addressing the problem, the legislative debate will center around how to fund the voluntary Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

2018 Water Quality Policy Position:

Des Moines Water Works believes the Senate bill is fiscally irresponsible at a time when the state budget has serious constraints. We must have accountability and should focus resources on the areas in which they can make the biggest impact. Meaningful water quality legislation that protects the health of Iowans should be the Iowa Legislature's priority, not a pass-what-we-have-and-move-on priority. That's especially true when the state budget has serious constraints and adds to the public health crisis for all Iowans, rural and urban. As such, DMWW opposes the Senate water quality legislation.

Senator David Johnson Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Bills

Des Moines Water Works is in support of several pieces of legislation addressing CAFO and DNR Master Matrix for CAFO construction, introduced by Senator David Johnson. Des Moines Water Works was a part of a press conference on January 16, with Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture in support of Senator Johnson's bills and companion bills in the House introduced by Representative Sharon Steckman (Mason City).

Federal Policy

I will be participating in the Greater Des Moines Partnership's agenda setting for the 2018 Federal Policy.