

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2018

TO: William Stowe, CEO and General Manager

FROM: Laura Sarcone, Public Affairs Manager

SUBJECT: Legislative Update

As of this writing, the second funnel week of the legislative session concluded. The final funnel marks the close of business for policy committees and an end to subcommittee meetings that do not pertain to tax or appropriations issues. Though the second funnel is behind us, high-profile policy bills remain.

Of particular interest to Des Moines Water Works:

- Infrastructure Sabotage bill (**SF 2235 and HF 2394**), which makes sabotage of critical infrastructure a class B felony, was placed on both the House and Senate calendar of unfinished business. DMWW has provided input and is monitoring this bill.
- Bottle Bill Repeal (**SSB 1186**) has been assigned to the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee, and would end the bottle deposit law. The companion bill **HF 575** did not pass out of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee. DMWW opposes the repeal that would undo a policy that has kept Iowa's fields, ditches, and waterways relatively clear of can and bottle litter for decades. In fact, it is time to "modernize" the bottle bill, by expanding it to include water and juice bottles, rather than eliminating it.

With the resignation of Senate Majority Leader Bill Dix, and ascension of Senator Jack Whitver (Ankeny) to Majority Leader and Senator Charles Schneider (West Des Moines) to Senate President, it is unclear how new leadership will impact the Legislature's collective agenda. Both metro-area senators met with Des Moines Water Works prior to this session, and most recently, with DMWW Board Chair Sue Huppert, West Des Moines Mayor Steve Gaer, and Ankeny Mayor Gary Lorenz, to hear an update on regional water efforts.

Federal Policy

I have submitted DMWW's suggested contributions to the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Federal Policy Agenda, highlighting the need for funding to help meet Iowa's Hypoxia Task Force goal of 45 percent reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus by 2030; additional federal funding for the Raccoon River Watershed; support and funding for Watershed Management Authorities; support for sustainable agriculture research; and a stronger link between farm safety net (crop insurance) and conservation priorities. The final version of the Federal Policy Agenda will be unveiled to the Partnership's Board and voted on by the Executive Committee soon.