

## MEMORANDUM

TO: William Stowe, CEO and General Manager

FROM: Jennifer Terry, Environmental Advocacy Leader

SUBJECT: Environmental Advocacy Outreach Summary  
March 22-April 17, 2017

In addition to spending a significant amount of time at the State Capitol helping with our efforts to defeat DMWW governance legislation, I represented DMWW at the following meetings and conferences, building coalitions for source water protection:

- Weekly legislative round table – Iowa Environmental Council
- Greater Des Moines Partnership 2017 – input on water quality policy and funding for federal legislative agenda on the Conservation/Flood Mitigation subcommittee
- Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture – steering committee and general meeting
- Iowa Water Conference
- Staffed exhibit booth at Environmental Lobby Day at the Capitol
- Hosted tour for Plymouth Church and Optima Life Services
- Hubbell Elementary water quality student group
- America’s Watershed Initiative
- Board meeting, Raccoon River Watershed Association
- Public Health Impacts / Water Quality Forum
- Gov. Conference on Public Health
- Legislative update to CIRDWC

**Proposal:**  House Bill #: **HF612 (formerly HF538)**  
 Senate Bill #:

**Proposed by:**  Representative: **Baltimore, R-Boone**  
 Senator:

**Does the proposal specifically address DMWW issues?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal include accountability measures (i.e. timeline for reductions, benchmarks to measure progress)?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal include water quality monitoring with public access to data?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal stop pollution where it starts using the watershed approach to target hotspots; plan; implement; assess; adaptively manage?**

Yes  No  Unknown

Comments: Mention is made of 28E agreements, which would include Watershed Management Authorities. Projects must be "consistent with the nutrient reduction strategy", therefore, the plan does not require a true watershed approach, which would treat all contaminants including bacteria--not just nutrient pollution.

**Does the proposal include adequate sustained funding that does not rob from other vital state services?**

Yes  No  Unknown

Comments: Appropriates funds from RIIF Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund - \$5 million in FY2018, increasing to \$22 million by FY2023 - FY2030. Not adequate for the problems we must address. Also exempts metered water sales to residential customers from the sales tax and establishes a 6% excise tax.

#### **Summary/Key Provisions**

Rep. Baltimore was kind enough to visit DMWW and include us in his discussions before introducing the bill. None of our recommendations were accepted, including: required water quality monitoring with public access to data; timelines, benchmarks and local watershed goals; prioritize the Raccoon River Watershed with a large WMA. The bill does have some interesting 'bells and whistles'--the 'authorities' who propose projects may bond to pay for the practices; edge-of-field and in-field nutrient management practices are included; drinking water utilities eligible for Iowa Finance Authority financial assistance program. Also, WMAs (as 28E entities) are eligible for consideration, which is a positive. These laws will be administered under IDALS, so implementation will likely lack appropriate accountability and reporting mechanisms; IDALS will resist water quality monitoring and reporting; and Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey has not exhibited an inclination to appropriately target watersheds for project placement.

**Did DMWW register on this bill?**  Yes  No

**If so, how?**  Favor  Opposed  Undecided

Comments: We are not able to register in support due to the lack of accountability, measures of progress, prioritization and lack of a true watershed approach. The bill has not made it to the House floor for debate yet.

**Proposal:**  House Bill #: **SF512**  
 Senate Bill #:

**Proposed by:**  Representative: **Rozenboom, R-Oskaloosa**  
 Senator:

**Does the proposal specifically address DMWW issues?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal include accountability measures (i.e. timeline for reductions, benchmarks to measure progress)?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal include water quality monitoring with public access to data?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal stop pollution where it starts using the watershed approach to target hotspots; plan; implement; assess; adaptively manage?**

Yes  No  Unknown

**Does the proposal include adequate sustained funding that does not rob from other vital state services?**

Yes  No  Unknown

#### **Summary/Key Provisions**

Comments: Creates a water service excise tax at the rate of 6% on the sales price from the sale or furnishing of a water service to consumers or users. Transfers certain wagering tax receipts to the WQ infrastructure fund which currently are deposited in the Vision Iowa fund which are set to expire June 30, 2020. Beginning July 1, 2020 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the bill provides that \$15 million of wagering tax receipts be deposited in WQ fund.

**Did DMWW register on this bill?**  Yes  No

**If so, how?**  Favor  Opposed  Undecided

Comments: We are not able to register in support due to the lack of accountability, measures of progress, prioritization and lack of a true watershed approach.