

**DES MOINES WATER WORKS**  
Board of Water Works Trustees



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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2017

TO: William Stowe, CEO and General Manager

FROM: Jennifer Terry, Environmental Advocacy Leader

SUBJECT: Environmental Advocacy Outreach Summary  
February 23-March 21, 2017

In the past month, 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 federal legislative agenda planning
- Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture
- Organized tour for DMWW employees of Mid America Recycling facility
- Legislative round table at the Capitol; metro-area legislators invited for discussion with CIRDWC members
- Exhibited and helped host Raccoon River Watershed Association fundraising event and annual conference “Life in the Raccoon”
- Hosted DMWW tour of University of Iowa Environmental class
- Worked daily at the Capitol with Advocacy Strategies and with public relations firm to defeat HF484

**Proposal:**  House Bill #: **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.