

# IOWA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE NEWS BULLETIN

\* **Member Organizations: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR LISTS**

April 7, 2008

**Executive Director's Note:** There are just a few weeks left in this session, at most. We have reached the point where most of the rules are gone and you can get as many different opinions as there are lobbyist in terms of what is likely to happen. Many of the bills we have been following may not actually make it to the floor for debate, in their current form. But, don't be surprised to see them brought up as an amendment during floor debate. This is a time to be vigilant in following what is happening up at the Capitol. We are watching carefully and will let you know if we need your assistance.

We are still very hopeful that the Sustainable Funding for Natural Resources bill (SJR 2002), creating the *Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund*, will be brought to the House floor for debate. It has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. **Please join us for a rally on Wednesday, April 9th. We are meeting at 9:30 am at the State Historical Building and will head up to the Capitol from there to talk with our legislators.** Check the Legislature's website and contact your Representative if he or she is on the Ways and Means Committee. Encourage them to bring this to a vote and to VOTE YES for SJR 2002.

Here are links to the House and Senate for your ease in contacting your legislators:

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/legislators.do?ch=h> -House Members, their districts, email addresses, home addresses, telephone numbers, etc.

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/qa/legislators.do?ch=s&qa=82> -Senate Members, their districts, email addresses. The Iowa Environmental Council Legislative News Bulletin provides legislative information to requesting individuals during the legislative session.

The Iowa Environmental Council regularly monitors dozens of bills, and few of them actually warrant us officially opposing or supporting. If you see the Iowa Environmental Council tentatively supporting or tentatively opposing a bill, it means we will likely officially support or oppose the bill the following week.

If you have strong feelings concerning a position the Iowa Environmental Council is taking, and if you are a member organization of the Council, it is your right AND RESPONSIBILITY to phone or send an e-mail to me as soon as possible. We may sometimes make the wrong call, or be misinformed, concerning the ramifications of certain legislation. The Iowa Environmental Council is your voice, and I wish to make it as responsive as possible to your needs. Marian Riggs Gelb, Executive Director

**Abbreviations...** HF=House File, SF=Senate File, HSB=House Study Bill, SSB=Senate Study Bill, SAgC=Senate Agriculture Committee, HAgC=House Agriculture Committee. HEPC=House Environmental Protection Committee, SNRC=Senate Natural Resources Committee. HEPC=House Environmental Protection Committee.

The Iowa Environmental Council is currently *Supporting* the following bills

HF	900	<b>Waste Tire Management.</b> A bill for an act relating to the waste tire management fund and making appropriations	In Appropriations Committee
----	-----	--	-----------------------------

HF	2080	<b>Conservation Tax Credits.</b> Creates an income tax credit for the donation of a fee or less-than-fee title real estate to a qualified conservation organization. Makes the credit equal to 50% of the value, and up to \$100,000 and carried forward for 20 years	Eligible for House debate
HF	2329	<b>Mercury Thermostat recycling.</b> Establishes a recycling program for thermostats that contain mercury	House Ways and Means Committee
HF	2400	<b>Water Resources Coordinating Council.</b> Formerly HSB 615. Creates a Water Resources Coordinating Council in the Governor's Office. The Council is to coordinate efforts and facilitate direction of water quality planning and expenditures to improve water quality in an efficient and fiscally responsible manner. Companion bill, SF 2197	The Governor has announced that he will sign this legislation on 4/3/08 at 2:30 p.m.
HF	2498	<b>Solid Waste.</b> (Formerly HSB 651), SF 2276 (Formerly SSB 3134). Solid Waste. Makes corrections and adds definitions for beneficial uses, financial assurance, rubble, and for solid waste.	Eligible for House debate
HF	2537	<b>Bottle Bill Expansion.</b> (formerly HSB 734). Expands the beverage container types covered under the deposit law to include noncarbonated beverages. Increases the reimbursement paid by distributors to handlers to 2 cents	Referred to House Ways and Means Committee
HF	2551	<b>Aerial Pesticide Applicators.</b> Establishes requirements for a nonresident of this state engaged in the aerial application of pesticides, making penalties applicable. Formerly HSB 702.	Placed on the House calendar
HF	2570	<b>Environmental Management Systems-Solid Waste Disposal.</b> Creates an environmental management systems board within the DNR which is to encourage solid waste management agencies to engage in responsible environmentally appropriate solid waste management practices	Placed on debate calendar
HF	2580	<b>Sustainable Resources Advisory Committee.</b> Reestablishes the Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee to make reports in 2009 and 2010 on sustainable sources of funding for natural resources and outdoor recreation. Formerly HSB 738	Placed on Calendar
HF	2612	<b>DNR Omnibus Bill.</b> Many provisions, but one allows civil penalties for damages caused by <b>ATV's</b> in addition to criminal prohibitions against illegal operation of an ATV and authorizes mitigation for damages to property. Formerly HSB 764	Placed on Calendar

HF	2654	<b>Water Permit Fees.</b> Increases permit fees for individuals, businesses and industries required to apply for water use permits. Currently the fee is only \$25 for 10 years, which was set 30 years ago. The fee would be increased to cover actual costs of the permitting process and dispute settlements--approximately \$200 for 10 years, or \$20/year.	Eligible for House debate
SF	261	<b>Septic Tank Inspections.</b> Requires septic system inspection prior to property transfers.	Governor will sign legislation on 4/3/08 at 2:30 p.m.
SF	517	<b>Sustainable Building Codes.</b> An act relating to energy conservation building codes, sustainable building design standards, and the Energy Bank program at the Iowa DNR. Consolidates and modifies SF 517 and SF 544.	Eligible for House debate
SF	2360	<b>Environmental Management Systems-Solid Waste Disposal. (Also HF 2570)</b> Creates an environmental management systems board within the DNR which is to encourage solid waste management agencies to engage in responsible environmentally appropriate solid waste management practices and provide incentives. Formerly SSB 3166.	Placed on debate calendar
SF	2375	<b>Alternative Energy Tax Credits. (Formerly 2210)</b> A bill for an act relating to alternative energy system tax credits under the individual and corporate income taxes for the installation of alternative energy systems and including a retroactive applicability date provision	Amended and passed the SNRC
SF	2380	<b>Low Head Dam Hazard Program.</b> A bill for an act establishing a low head dam public hazard program	Passed Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee
SF	2386	<b>Energy Efficiency.</b> An act related to improved energy efficiency. Establishes a committee on energy efficiency standards and practices in the Dept. of Public Safety and a legislative interim committee on energy efficiency. Requires municipal and rural electric cooperative utilities to identify savings from energy efficiency, set energy efficiency savings goals, and report progress towards meeting goal, including cost of achieving a 1.5% savings goal. Formerly SF 2083.	Eligible for House debate
SJR	2002	<b>Trust Fund for Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation.</b> Proposes to amend the Iowa Constitution to designate 3/8 of a cent, of the NEXT sales tax increase passed by the Legislature (whenever that occurs), for protecting and enhancing water quality, soil and water conservation, parks and trails, fish, wildlife and natural areas. Formerly SSB 3250	Referred to House Ways and Means Committee

The Iowa Environmental Council is *Tentatively Supporting* the following bills

none at this time

The Iowa Environmental Council is currently *Monitoring* the following bills

HF	2112	<b>Dam Restoration and Lake Maintenance.</b> A bill for an act relating to an appropriation to the DNR for dam restoration and lake maintenance	In Appropriations Committee. Subcommittee-Cohoon, Huseman, Reichert
HF	2130	<b>River Water Trail.</b> A bill for an act making an appropriation to the department of natural resources for a river water trail	In Appropriations Committee. Subcommittee-Cohoon, Huseman, Reichert
HF	2352	<b>Green Building Tax Credit.</b> Apartments and rental units that meet green building certification requirements would be eligible for a property tax credit.	Referred to Ways & Means
HF	2496	(Formerly HF 2363). Also SF 2346. <b>Dry Manure storage.</b> Provides parameters for storing dry manure from a confinement feeding operation outside a confinement feeding operation structure (i.e., a confinement building or manure storage structure), a practice referred to as "stockpiling".	Eligible for debate in both Chambers
HF	2502	<b>Residue Biomass tax credit.</b> A bill for an enacting a tax credit for using crop residue for the production of biofuels.	Subcommittee-Thomas, Quirk, Soderberg
HF	2518	<b>Water Well Drilling Sites.</b> (Also SF 2267) Directs the environmental protection commission to develop rules for water well drilling and requires the rules to incorporate the certain considerations (Formerly 647)	Referred to Ways & Means
HF	2525	<b>Disposal of waste oil filters.</b> A bill for an act relating to the disposal and recycling of waste oil filters. (Formerly HF 2273)	House Ways and Means Committee
HF	2652	<b>Odor Mitigation.</b> Provides for basic and applied research to mitigate odor emitted from a livestock operation.	Eligible for House Debate
SF	2180	<b>Energy Efficiency Investment Tax Credit.</b> A bill for an act increasing the amount of investment tax credit for which an eligible housing business may qualify if specified energy efficiency standards are met	In Senate Ways and Means. Subcommittee hogg, Bolcom & Houser

SF	2327	<b>Sustainable Community Development.</b> A bill for an act relating to economic development by creating a sustainable community development initiative	Eligible for Senate Debate
SF	2362	<b>Manure Odor Research.</b> Also HSB 679. Requires ISU, in consultation with the Dept. of Ag. And DNR, to conduct research into odor mitigation efforts for livestock operations. Formerly SF 2234	Placed on Senate debate calendar
SF	2405	<b>Renewable Energy and State Banks.</b> (Formerly SF 2077, SF 2223) A bill for an act relating to renewable energy, providing for state bank acquisition of equity interests in wind energy production facilities, and providing for qualification for specified tax credits and refunds by state banks and by owners or manufacturing facilities generating wind energy for on-site consumption rather than sale	Eligible for Senate Debate
SF	2276	<b>Solid Waste Disposal.</b> (Formerly SSB 3134) A bill for an act relating to the disposal of solid waste by changing permitting requirements and updating and clarifying existing provisions	Eligible for Senate Debate

The Iowa Environmental Council is currently <i>Opposed</i> to the following bills			
HF	2240	<b>Office of Energy Independence Technical Bill.</b> Amendment to this bill revises the definition of alternative and renewable energy to include nuclear energy	Eligible for House debate

The Iowa Environmental Council is <i>Tentatively Opposing</i> the following bills			
None at this time			

**Legislation of Interest**

HF	2562	<p>Also SF 2389. <b>TIME-21 Fund.</b> TIME stands for Transportation Investment Moves the Economy in the Twenty-first Century. The legislature is considering options to fund this proposal over the next two decades. The fund would be used to finance road projects.</p> <p>The Council is interested in this proposal because of the implications that transportation planning has on global warming and energy security. Providing other transportation options can reduce vehicle miles traveled, lower Iowa's green house gas emissions and move Iowa closer to achieving energy security.</p> <p>The current legislation is focused primarily at roads. We support the following recommendations to expand the scope of the legislation to include broader transportation choices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Require the Iowa DOT to do a comprehensive inventory of diverse funding needs for buses, rapid transit, passenger rail, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure for consideration in future years for TIME-21 funding.</li> <li>b) Increase state funding for transit systems across Iowa. The current legislation keeps annual, dedicated funding for transit at a status quo level as a percentage of various transportation-related fees and taxes, amounting to about \$10 million a year. This amount should be increased to \$15 million/year-while acknowledging that more costly work for major transit projects like commuter rail deserve state grants and TIME-21 funding in the future. In comparison with our neighboring states, Iowa's current level of state transit funding is miniscule and deserves a boost.</li> </ul>	<p>Each bill is being considered in the respective Chambers Ways and Means Committee.</p> <p>Subcommittee in the House: Representatives Huser, Reasoner and Shomshor.</p> <p>Subcommittee in the Senate: Senators Bolkcom, McCoy, and Putney.</p>
----	------	---	---

For additional information regarding Water issues, please call Susan Heathcote at (515) 244-1194, X 205  
For additional information regarding Energy issues, please call Nathaniel Baer at (515) 244-1194, X 206  
For additional information regarding Conservation Funding or the Council Please call Marian Gelb (515) 244-1194,