

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS AND IOWA'S CANCER CRISIS

HOW TO WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Letter to the Editor (LTE) in your local newspaper is one of the most effective ways to educate your community and encourage elected officials to take action. Your personal story can help others understand why Iowa's cancer crisis is urgent and why protecting our water matters.

What Makes a Strong Letter to the Editor?

Keep your letter 200–300 words and follow this simple structure:

1. Start with a timely hook

Reference a recent news story or current issue related to public health, water quality, agricultural corporations, or local government.

2. Share your personal story or perspective

Explain why this issue matters to you and your community. Personal stories are often the most compelling.

3. Include one or two facts

Support your message with a statistic or key point about Iowa's cancer crisis or water quality.

4. End with a call to action

Ask elected leaders to prioritize solutions that protect Iowans' health and encourage readers to get involved.

Key Messages

- Iowa is facing one of the highest cancer rates in the country.
- Environmental pollution is contributing to this public health crisis.
- We need comprehensive policy solutions that protect clean water and reduce cancer risk.
- It's time for transparency, accountability, and leadership that puts Iowans' health first.
- Everyone has a role to play in creating healthier communities.
- Visit iaenvironment.org/cancerproject for more information and to join the movement.

How to Submit Your Letter

- Search online for your newspaper's "Letter to the Editor" submission page.
- Review the publication's word limit and submission guidelines.
- Complete all required contact information (your phone number and address are used only for verification).
- If your letter is published, share it on your social media accounts and encourage others to write their own.

Tip: Don't copy the following sample letter word-for-word. Make it your own by sharing your personal experience and why this issue matters to you.

Sample Letter to the Editor

Iowa is facing a devastating public health crisis: We have one of the highest cancer rates in the country. And no one is immune: Cancer impacts almost every family in Iowa. It doesn't care about your politics, age, or zip code.

The science is clear: Pollution in our water, air, and soil is contributing to this epidemic. To protect our families, we need comprehensive policy solutions that work for both rural and urban communities. We can no longer let special interests call the shots when Iowa families are paying the price. We deserve transparency and accountability from our elected officials.

Tackling this crisis requires all of us. That is why I have joined my neighbors in working for policy that will protect our water and lower cancer rates for every Iowa community. Our health should never be the cost of doing business. It's time for bold changes that put the health of Iowans first. Learn more at iaenvironment.org/cancerproject.



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