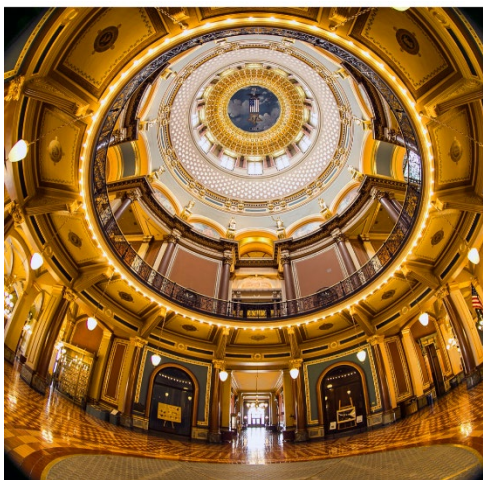




## Week 1 Recap

The restart of the 88th Iowa General Assembly kicked off Monday, January 13th. The week began with impassioned speeches from House and Senate leaders. New House leaders Speaker Grassley and Majority Leader Windschitl, as well as returning Senate leaders Majority Leader Whitver and Senate President Schneider, laid out their priorities for the session.



On Tuesday, Governor Reynolds delivered the 2020 Condition of the State Address to a joint session of the legislature. Governor Reynolds announced an intention to move forward with funding the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWILL). The address also highlighted a focus on child care assistance, education funding, maternal health, and tax policy. Additionally, the Governor intends to focus on mental health funding as the next step after passing comprehensive legislative reform for mental health last legislative session. [Read the full text of the address here.](#)

As this year is the [second year of the two-year biennium](#), things are already moving at the Capitol. Activity has already begun with the new bills assigned numbers and subcommittees increasing daily. Additionally, bills still 'alive' after the first year of the biennium remain active

and can move forward. Next week a bill tracker will be available detailing all bills IEC is registered on or monitoring.



## Energy Program Activity

The first week was quiet on the energy front with no new bills introduced. We continue to watch several that remain in play from 2019. One of those includes [SF 549](#), a bill requiring certain landlords to disclose the energy costs of rentals before a lease is signed. This bill passed the Senate overwhelmingly in 2019 and we hope to see it move through the House and get the Governor's signature in 2020.

Today, IEC is highlighting this and other energy efficiency efforts at the second annual [Energy Efficiency Day on the Hill](#). IEC is also keeping an eye out for legislation that may be coming related to [statewide standards for wind and solar siting](#) and is hoping for a possible compromise that could resolve the Sunshine Tax battle of 2019 that was won in the House at the end of last year.



## Water Program Activity

On Tuesday, Governor Reynolds provided a clear vision of her priorities in the Condition of the State Address, with the [Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund](#) (IWILL) funding being a part of a comprehensive package for the state. With the potential penny increase coming from sales tax, Republican leadership continues talk of tax breaks, most likely income tax. However, no plan has yet been put forward on what that would entail.

We embrace the opportunity to continue to work with policymakers and the Governor's office on this critical conservation funding, and applaud the work done so far. We realize there is a long road ahead to fully address water policy issues in Iowa, and today are excited about this very important first step.

## Stay Connected This Session:

- Visit and bookmark IEC's [2020 Legislative Portal](#)
- Review the [Energy Program Legislative Priorities](#) and [Water Program Legislative Priorities](#)
- Make sure you're [signed up to receive Action Alerts](#) from IEC during session. We send alerts as needed about legislation that needs your voice or action
- Sign up to attend IEC's free [Environmental Lobby Day](#) on March 11

## Dates of Interest:

- February 21: First funnel deadline (6th week)
- March 20: Second funnel deadline (10th week)
- April 21: 100th calendar day of the session; legislators' per diem expires

## Legislative Events:

- January 22: [Clean Energy Caucus with 100% Iowa](#)
- January 23: [Stop CAFOs Lobby Day with IARA and Poweshiek CARES](#)
- January 29: [ISETA Solar Day](#)
- March 11: [Environmental Lobby Day](#)



**Iowa  
Environmental  
Council**



505 Fifth Ave, Suite 850  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309  
515-244-1194 |  
[iecmail@iaenvironment.org](mailto:iecmail@iaenvironment.org)

[Unsubscribe](#)