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## The Senate

State of Iowa

*Eighty-fifth General Assembly*

STATEHOUSE

Des Moines, IA 50319

### COMMITTEES

Commerce, Ranking Member  
Labor and Business Relations  
State Government

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals  
Appropriations Subcommittee

## The Anderson Report

Thank you for the honor of representing you in the Iowa Senate. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments and ideas. You can reach me at **712-898-2505** or email to [bill.anderson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:bill.anderson@legis.iowa.gov).

### **Highway 20**

Last week I co-sponsored an amendment to HF 638, the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure bill, that would appropriate \$25 million to expand Highway 20 to four lanes between Correctionville and Early.

As we know, Highway 20 is a main thoroughfare for commerce in northwest Iowa and this amendment would have benefited the entire area. The proposed \$25 million would have advanced the completion of this vital east-west corridor.

Unfortunately Senate Democrats labeled the amendment as “pork.” It is true when the final 32 miles of four-lane Highway 20 are complete we will see a lot of pork moving through western Iowa, as well as a lot of corn, soybeans, cattle, and other Iowa-made products. Rest assured, I will stay the course and continue to fight for funding to complete four-lane Highway 20.

### **Hunters May Find Closed Gates**

We also had an opportunity to vote on important legislation which would have implications on both farmers and outdoorsmen.

For nearly forty years, farmers have been protected under the Iowa Recreational Use Statute. The statute was put in place to give farmers confidence in allowing individuals on their farm, while holding them harmless. However, in a recent 5 to 2 vote in the Iowa Supreme Court, they ruled that a person who was on a farm tour and was injured, had the right to file suit against the farmer.

From the decision, there have been countless emails and phone calls. Farmers are concerned that the flood gates have been opened to litigation. Many have told me that they are unwilling to allow individuals on their farms to hunt or fish, as they do not want to jeopardize their livelihood. One neighbor shared stories about fences being cut, squatters on his property setting up camp, and hunters trespassing.

In an attempt to address the ruling, I co-sponsored Senate Amendment 3199 which would have invalidated the Supreme Court’s ruling. The amendment affirms the legislature’s position on keeping farms open to the public. Unfortunately, the amendment was defeated on a party line vote.

We will continue working to address this important issue. My hope is legislators will hear from their constituents this fall when farmers won't allow them on their property.

### **Army Corps; at it again**

As many of you know, we are working on a major project to reduce nutrient runoff into our lakes and streams in Iowa. I wrote about this issue earlier this year. It is important that we keep the soil where it is and efficiently manage the soil fertility. It is a crime when good top soil flows down a waterway to become silt. It takes thousands of years to create topsoil. This soil also carries nutrients like phosphate, potash, and nitrogen. When these critical nutrients wash away they become pollution in our rivers.

That said, you can imagine my surprise to hear the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to pump silt into the Missouri River. They consider the Missouri River to be "silt deficient." According to the Army Corps, the flood that devastated western Iowa in 2011 also scoured the riverbed and the silt has been washed downstream. The Corps now says the Missouri River is too clean. Their reasoning is to restore habitat for the pallid sturgeon and two bird species. There may be a need for wildlife habitat, but I urge the Corps to search for an alternative that doesn't involve trying to fix one problem by adding to another.

Last week the Iowa Corn and Soybean Associations took an active role in urging the Army Corps to find an alternative solution. You can also be assured we will continue to do the same here at the Capitol. My hope is together we can manage the river without increasing the nutrient load.