

MARK CHELGREN
STATE SENATOR
Forty-first District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

—
819 Hutchinson
Ottumwa, IA 52501
C: (641) 777-7047
mark.chelgren@legis.iowa.gov



The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-fifth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

COMMITTEES

Economic Growth/Rebuild Iowa
Local Government
Veterans Affairs

Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

Administrative Rules Review

Senator Mark Chelgren

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER

Week 14

Residential property tax is slated to increase automatically into the foreseeable future. The Iowa Senate Democrats proposed a commercial property tax credit bill to help offset one of the worst business tax climates in the country. While I agree we should work at improving business tax rates, I think that it is imperative we protect home owners from these automatic property tax increases. I was the lead sponsor of an amendment that would have frozen property tax rates for residential properties and helped protect seniors and families that are on fixed incomes from having to decide between food, heat or increased taxes.

Yesterday I voted for a resolution to encourage the federal government to support ethanol, biodiesel and other renewable fuels. I am a strong supporter of domestic energy production and believe all sources of energy deserve to be fairly evaluated, balancing the long term economic benefit to our state and country verses reasonable environmental impacts that would affect the quality of life for our citizens. We should have a federal energy plan that sets long-term strategy for producing energy at the best possible price for consumers while protecting our environment or at minimum we should have a state plan based on the failure of the federal government to do its job. As an elected official it is also my responsibility to resist the urge to spend tax payers' money on any private business or special interest group. Subsidizing a business or an industry warps the honest evaluation of its merits and its financial feasibility in a free market.

A bill encouraging donations to the food bank of Iowa was passed by the Iowa Senate this week. I supported this bill because of the tax credits available to encourage charitable giving to this worthy cause.

The Iowa Senate is now focused on appropriations bills, effectively trying to figure out how to spend your money. I will continue to focus on the priorities of Iowa and never forget that the money belongs to the citizens of Iowa and I will be as careful with it as I am with my own money.

The state of Iowa has recovered from massive mismanagement of its finances and I will not support a return to spending more money than we take in. Any "extra money" that we have after covering our bills and setting aside a reasonable amount for our emergency fund, should be returned to the tax payers.

Senator Mark Chelgren
Ottumwa, Iowa

"I swear to support the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Iowa. So help me God."