

# Senator Mark Chelgren

## ***THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER***



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

COMMITTEES  
Economic Growth/Rebuild Iowa  
Local Government  
Veterans Affairs  
  
Administrative Rules Review Committee  
Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

### **Week 9**

This week in the Senate we are finally working on bills on the Senate floor. It is important to me that we understand our role as legislators and take time to read, review and carefully assess the consequences of the bills that we vote on. I find myself being the only one, at times, voting against legislation that is broadly supported by both parties but has the effect of limiting our liberties or does not follow the limits of the Constitution of Iowa. The Iowa Constitution states that legislative bills address only one topic that is clearly stated in the title. Our state founders knew that if bills with multiple topics were introduced, individual noble ideas would instead give way to selfish interests and the exchanging of political favors. Unfortunately, we have fallen into that very trap. An example this week is a bill that deals with water quality, weights and measures, ethanol fuel standards and pesticide concentrations in soil. Each of these issues should be voted on based upon their own merits.

Last year I voted against consolidating power within the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The Governor wanted and got a public/private partnership to promote economic development in the state. In my opinion it is unconstitutional but it is the law now and we will see if it works long-term. This week I voted against giving the department additional authority to give special loans based on race, sex or ethnicity. The Iowa Constitution states, "The credit of the state shall not, in any manner, be given or loaned to, or in aid of, any individual, association, or corporation;" and also states that, "the General Assembly shall not grant to any citizen, or class of citizens, privileges or immunities, which, upon the same terms shall not equally belong to all citizens."

Last, I voted with one other Senator against a bill encouraging early retirement because the unintended side effect would be to raise property taxes on many Iowans.

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."