

**Senator Mark Chelgren**  
**THE STRAIGHT**  
**SHOOTER**



**The Senate**

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Administrative Rules Review Committee  
Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

**Week 6**

Taxes and education are important topics again this week. The Democrat Senators are complaining about tax credits that Governor Branstad and the Department of Economic Development gave to a fertilizer company in Lee County Iowa. I agree with the Democrats that we should not use taxpayer money to bribe companies to move to or stay in Iowa. It is hypocritical to bash Governor Branstad while giving a pass to Governors Vilsack and Culver for doing the same thing for wind energy companies. We need to fix the tax code in Iowa so all businesses can compete on a level playing field as opposed to picking winners and losers based on campaign contributions.

Recently a local paper misquoted me on education. Let me set the record straight: Iowa children deserve the best possible education. Twenty years from now more education opportunities will be available online and we, as legislators, need to think longer term than simply to the next election. There should always be a physical and social interaction that only happens face to face. True education reform needs to take into account past, present and future techniques. We cannot continue to fall behind the rest of the world when it comes to education practices. We owe it to the children of Iowa - now is the time to do the hard work of education reform.

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

Senator Mark Chelgren  
Ottumwa, Iowa