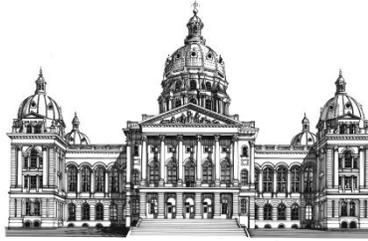


DAN ZUMBACH  
STATE SENATOR  
*Forty-eighth District*  
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371



## COMMITTEES

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

“FROM THE GROUND UP”  
By Senator Dan Zumbach  
Week 4

The whirlwind of activity is spinning into full swing at the Iowa Capitol. After three forums in Center Point, Palo and Walker this past Saturday, I came to the Capitol filled with information from my friends and neighbors at home. Concerns about tree infestations, power line right-of-way issues, firearm rights and school aid all came up in discussions. I believe we are making progress on some of these issues.

The Senate passed a 6 percent increase in spending for the Supplemental School Aid (SSA) Bill on Wednesday. The vote was 26-23. I am disappointed the majority party did not entertain a discussion across the aisle on a percent increase the people of Iowa could afford. I had conversations with members of the Democrat Party who shared with me how the education experts in their party wanted to keep the education bill for a bargaining chip later. This is why they threw out such a large number knowing full well it will not pass in the House. It saddens me a few people will hold our schools hostage on being able to set their budgets. It is simply wrong to come out of the gun with a percent increase the State of Iowa cannot fulfill. Our schools were devastated a few years ago when poor decisions led to a 10 percent across-the-board cut. I care too much for our children to put their teachers through this type of a situation again. I am saddened to tell you this will, in all probability, move to a conference committee, breaking Iowa law. It will create havoc for our schools by not having a timely working budget in their hands.

L.P. gas prices have started to stabilize. The roller coaster price change has been devastating to many families, businesses, and farms. I'll try to explain the reason this situation is happening. On January 17, the local price of L.P. was \$1.88. Two weeks later, it peaked at \$4.87. Today it is at \$2.97. In a nutshell it climbed 260 percent and now has fallen back 65 percent from the peak. Wisconsin and Minnesota are in very short supply and are consuming parts of Iowa's supply. My suggestion is if you can delay filling your tank, wait a week or two until supplies level out.

I am always happy to hear from you. Please forward my newsletter to your friends. The Senate phone number is 515-281-3371. My email address is [dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov)



*Iowa Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey and Department of Natural Resources Director Chuck Gipp spoke to the Senate ag and natural resources committee on Thursday. They addressed the progress of the nutrient reduction plan, which was implemented last year.*

Respectfully,  
Senator Dan Zumbach  
Honorably serving District 48