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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 8

It was another interesting week in the Senate Chamber. Senator Gronstal has chosen to hold our schools hostage for another week. As a result we did not take up the education bill from the House. It has been two and-a-half weeks since the Senate has voted on any legislation. It is time to do the peoples’ work. Senate Republicans have offered an olive branch to the Senate Democrats. We are willing to work together to pass bipartisan bills. We are waiting for a response.

Governor Branstad invited me to his office on Tuesday for a one-on-one conversation. The Governor wanted to know what the most important issues are in District 48. For the next 45 minutes we discussed Health Care Reform, Education, Lake Delhi, and Agriculture Production. I appreciated his efforts of being available and having an open ear.

On Wednesday I was honored by having a group of constituents drive to Des Moines to discuss livestock handling procedures at packing plants. Livestock producers, representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Farmland Foods, Legislative Representatives, Senators, and students from Iowa State University shared their thoughts about better policy and procedures while unloading livestock. I have proposed a follow up report from Farmland within thirty days. We are expecting good results.

The House of Representatives has moved one step closer to getting the “technical corrections” solved in the wording describing the dam on Lake Delhi. I know this seems silly however, it is extremely important to get the proper description of the dam in place. The Governor has offered his support and both Representative Hein and I are working daily on moving this legislation through the House and Senate. Ultimately the bill will go to the Governor’s desk for his signature. My hope is the construction of the dam will begin this year.

As usual, 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.

Respectfully,
Senator Dan Zumbach