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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 17

At times it is appropriate to laugh at ourselves. All of us have done things in our lives that after an amount of time to reflect, we wish we would have made a different decision. Our federal government is attempting one of these moments. Just as homeowners and property owners are developing plans to prevent pollution from getting into our rivers, our government wants to dump silt and nutrients into these waters. Let me clarify.

Farmers are changing the way they apply fertilizers, herbicides, and manure to prevent runoff. They are using less tillage, while micromanaging their business closely to control runoff and loss of soil.

Homeowners are making decisions to manage yards and neighborhoods by controlling storm sewer water and maintaining their lawns with appropriate fertilizers. In our communities everyone is working to help clean up our rivers.

Our federal government on the other hand is attempting to “pull the wool over our eyes.” In the Missouri river, our government is telling us the river is “nutrient deficient.” They want to cut a channel over one hundred feet wide and approximately one-quarter mile long and blow all the soil back into the river. If you or I would do this, we would have massive fines and perhaps jail time for such an abusive act on our environment.

I find it interesting as the people from the Midwest are attempting to reduce nutrient run-off, our government is going to inject nutrients and silt into the very rivers we are trying to clean up. I’m going to change my terminology: This is not funny, this is an outrage. I will do everything I can to stop and derail this unscrupulous attack on our environment by our government. Our governor also finds this outrageous.

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.gov.

Respectfully,
Senator Dan Zumbach
Honorably serving District 48

