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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 Five

I left home this week in a snow and wind storm. By midweek it was 50 degrees. As always, if you don't like the weather in Iowa, drive 175 miles to Des Moines and have a different experience.

As I am writing this letter the Senate Education Committee is debating education reform. The digestive process of this bill is in full swing as scores of information and opinions are being fed into each legislator. I want all of you to know that I am in full support of student achievement and financing our schools accordingly. Next week I hope I will be able to report on a plan of direction that our school leaders can expect to follow for the next few years. Let me put this in a different perspective. You have a flat tire on your dependable car (old system). You don't fix it by buying a bigger air compressor (4% Allowable Growth). You fix the hole in the tire (school reform) and then pump it up to proper pressure (100% funding). A “scary” quote from a recent Harvard study ranked Iowa last....in educational “improvement” since 1992. (Council Bluffs Nonpareil) February 8, 2013. We need to fix the tire!

The Agriculture Committee heard a presentation on Urban Nutrient Management. Urban home owners and businesses need to be aware of pollution getting into our streams the same as our rural counterparts. Nutrient management needs to be everyone's responsibility. It is time to stop pointing fingers at our neighbors and take a self-acting, personal gesture on our own. My suggestion is that all of us try to do something better this year than we did last year with your property. With 60,000 people in my district, that could be 60,000 new nutrient management plans.

We had our fourth hearing on chronic wasting disease (CWD) in deer. Thankfully a bill died this week that would have crucified our diversified farmers raising deer. CWD is a vicious disease and needs to be taken seriously. My responsibility lies in protecting all the states' properties and my constituents' rights. I assume in the near future there will be good legislation to protect both our wild herd and our private herds. I'm working hard on this issue.

I am always happy to hear from you. Please forward my newsletter to anyone who shares our ideas. The Senate phone number is 515-281-3371. My email address is dan.zumbach@legis.iowa.gov.

Respectfully,
Senator Dan Zumbach