

Senator Dix Statement on REC Meeting

Des Moines - Today, the Iowa Revenue Estimating Conference projected a continued contraction of state revenues for fiscal year 2017 of \$131 million.

In response, Senate Majority Leader Bill Dix commented, "Overall, Iowa's economy is headed in a positive direction. However, with the price of corn, beans and other commodities continuing to remain below the cost of production for Iowa farmers, our state revenues have lagged. Lower revenues make clear the need for the legislature to focus on policies that promote growth across Iowa."

Fortunately, due to the past leadership of Gov. Branstad, Lt. Gov. Reynolds and House Republicans, Iowa has hundreds of millions of dollars in our cash reserves, the state's savings account. Considering previous cuts made this year, required by Iowa law, additional cuts are not reasonable for fiscal year 2017.

Dix said, "We must not cripple our schools, public safety and many other essential services with further cuts this year. Our savings account exists for moments such as this."

With an eye toward the future, Dix added, "Refilling our savings account will be a top priority of Senate Republicans in our ongoing budgeting process. We must also remain steadfast in our efforts to examine all state government spending, to include tax credits and streamlining state government services, as we prepare Iowa to become more fiscally sound and responsible. This path will lead to predictability for taxpayers and growth in our economy which will create an environment for small businesses to invest and new career opportunities for all Iowans."