

2012 Legislative Wrap-Up

By Neila Seaman, Chapter Director

Sine Die

The 84th General Assembly came to a close in the late afternoon of May 9, 2012. The Iowa Chapter was successful in most of its challenges during this legislative session. Three of our priorities -- stopping construction while in progress for a new nuclear power plant, saving public lands and preserving the ban on lead-based ammunition to hunt Mourning Doves -- all prevailed in the Legislature.

See how legislators voted the past two years on issues important to the Sierra Club at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Legislature/2011-2012Scorecard.pdf>

Lead Ammunition for Mourning Dove Hunting

In a stunning move, Gov. Terry Branstad issued Executive Order 77 on May 11 "to correct a Senate failure" for not debating the resolution that would rescind the lead ammunition ban on hunting Mourning Doves. Branstad's order indicates that "... it is in the best interests of the State of Iowa to rescind the Iowa rule banning use of traditional shot by hunters because the determination of whether hunters should be forced to stop using traditional lead shot is the role of the legislature, not an unelected NRC [Natural Resource Commission]."

Twin joint resolutions, SJR2001 and HJR2001, would have nullified the Natural Resource Commission's amended rule that would prohibit lead ammunition when hunting doves. Both resolutions passed their necessary committees and the House passed its version 68-27 on February 2. The Senate resolution was not brought up for debate before the session ended on May 9, 2012. As a result, the rule became effective as passed by the NRC in July 2011 -- until Branstad stepped in with his Executive Order.

Senate File 464, formerly known as the Dove Hunting bill, passed both chambers and was signed by the governor within 72 hours in 2011. During the rulemaking process, the Department of Resources (DNR) received more than 850 comments. Of those, 541 opposed dove hunting; however, 214 comments supported a non-toxic shot requirement if a dove hunting season was established. The NRC heard the public and courageously amended DNR's rule to ban lead-based ammunition.

However, the Administrative Rules Review Committee (ARRC), a legislative oversight committee, reversed the NRC's amendment for the 2011 hunting season by voting 9-1 in August 2011 to put a legislative hold on the rule allowing the season to proceed but removing the rule ban on lead-based ammunition. Both chambers of the legislature were required to approve a resolution to remove the lead ban or the rule would become effective.

The Sierra Club challenged the constitutionality of the ARRC in a lawsuit filed in March 2012 alleging that the Iowa law creating the ARRC violates the separation of powers in the Iowa Constitution because it authorizes the ARRC, a legislative oversight committee, to suspend the implementation of an administrative rule legally adopted by the executive branch of government.

During 2012, lawmakers heard arguments that the NRC overstepped its authority to add a lead prohibition in its dove hunting rule; that there isn't enough research to indicate a need for a lead ammunition prohibition; that the science

that exists is "junk;" and that this is the first attempt in an effort to ban guns.

What is so stunning about Branstad's Executive Order is how many times he changed his position on this issue.

The NRC minutes from July 14, 2011 state: "Commissioner Clement stated that he had discussed the proposed amendment [to ban lead shot] early that morning with Governor Branstad and that he (Governor Branstad) stated that if this amendment was the consensus of the commission he would be okay with it. Commissioner Schemmel commented that it troubled him that this amendment was being proposed at this point, but had reviewed many of the public comments both for and against the use of non-toxic shot a dove season and personally is opposed to that restriction but for the consensus of the commission would vote for it. Commissioner Underwood stated that she was in favor of the proposed amendment as she felt that it was an important issue to address in the state."

Then, Brenna Findley, the Governor's Administrative Rules Coordinator, appeared before the ARRC at its August 16-17, 2011 meeting and "clarified the position of the governor, which is that whether or not to limit or ban traditional shot is a decision that belongs to the legislature."

On May 11, 2012, the governor continued to insist that the lead ban is "something that should be decided by

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Sierra Club Whiterock Conservancy Outing

Spend the day or the weekend! September 22, 2012

The Iowa Chapter annual meeting and luncheon will be held Saturday, September 22 at Whiterock Conservancy, site of the homestead of Roswell and Elizabeth Garst, who hosted Nikita Khrushchev in his historic visit to the United States in 1959. Join us for lunch followed by a program and a guided hike, and then spend the day with fellow Sierra Club members and guests in this beautiful landscape of rolling hills and sandstone bluffs in the Middle Raccoon River Valley.

Starting at 12:30 p.m., enjoy a buffet of sandwiches and homemade salads and desserts at the Bur Oak Visitor Center. The program after lunch will be presented by Dr. Tom Rosburg, professor of biology at Drake University in Des Moines. Dr. Rosburg will talk about the natural history of Whiterock and the new trail system being developed. When completed, the trail system will include more trails, wildlife observation blinds and a wetland boardwalk. Following the program, join us on a hike led by Dr. Rosburg on some of the Conservancy's 30 miles of trails through prairie and oak savannah. Then strike out on your own for hiking, biking, birding, fishing, or canoeing (bikes, fishing gear, and canoes and kayaks are available for rent from the Conservancy).

Horseback riding on the trails is available for a fee (bring your own horse), and there's an 8-inch telescope on site for stargazers to rent after dark!

As an added bonus, Liz Garst has invited annual meeting attendees to be her guests at the Garst Sisters Annual Fall Party that evening. Keg beer, a roasted hog, table service and a great dance band will be provided. Guests are asked to bring a potluck dish for the evening meal.

For those wishing to make a weekend of it, the Sierra Club has reserved the Oakridge Farm House, with lodging for thirteen, a large living room and kitchen, and simple breakfast Sunday morning. Cost for this B&B will be \$30 per person. Contact Donna Buell, donna.buell@sierraclub.org for reservations. Or, bring your tent and camp near the Oakridge Farm House or at the primitive campgrounds by the river. More information and other lodging options can be found at <http://www.whiterockconservancy.org>. The Conservancy is located near Coon Rapids in west central Iowa, about 1 hour and 20 minutes west of Des Moines on Highway 141. To get directions, use "1390 Highway 141, Coon Rapids, IA 50058" as the address in a mapping website or GPS device.

Mail reservations by August 22nd to:

Jane Clark, 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325 • For information: jrclark@radiks.net or 515-223-5047

Make checks payable to Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter

Number attending lunch: (adults) _____ x \$20 = _____ (children 12 and under) _____ x \$10 = _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Vegetarian option for lunch (number of meals): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

By signing below, you acknowledge that your reservation covers the lunch, program and guided hike presented by the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club. Additional activities may involve fees payable to Whiterock Conservancy, and the Sierra Club and its representatives do not assume liability for these activities.

Signature

Date

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1611
Des Moines, IA

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280
Des Moines, IA 50310

Sierra Club Endorsements in Iowa

Congressman Bruce Braley

By Charlie Winterwood, White Pine Group

In the first congressional district of Iowa the Sierra Club endorses Congressman Braley. Congressman Braley has an 86% voting record in favor of the environment in the last Congress according to the League of Conservation Voters. He co-authored the Cash for Clunkers bill and co-sponsored the Clean Water Restoration Act and the Clean Water Protection Act (which bans mountaintop mining.) He has consistently opposed attempts to strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its regulatory powers. Because of the influence of SuperPAC money in the 2010 election, Congressman Braley won the First District by only 2000 votes (2%). Please support and vote for Congressman Braley in this November's election.

National Environmental Groups Endorse President Obama

Recently, four of the nation's largest environmental groups representing nearly 4 million Americans endorsed President Barack Obama for re-election. The endorsement praised the President as the clear choice to protect clean air, clean water and the health of American families.

"The Sierra Club and our 1.4 million members and supporters share the same vision for America as the President for a prosperous and innovative economy that protects the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the health of our families," said Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director. "Together, we can build upon the historic successes of the last four years, including landmark fuel efficiency standards and the first-ever protections against toxic mercury pollution, to build a clean energy economy that creates thousands of new jobs and works for every American."

Environment America, the League of Conservation Voters and Clean Water Action joined Sierra Club in endorsing President Obama.

Congressman Dave Loebsack

By Patrick Bosold, Leopold Group

For Iowa's Second Congressional District, Sierra Club endorses incumbent Democratic Congressman Dave Loebsack. Congressman Loebsack had a 94% favorable voting record from the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) for 2011, and he received an LCV rating of 96% for 2009-2010. In the most recent session of Congress, he voted against assaults on the Clean Air Act and the public health basis of the Clean Air Act, regulatory rollback legislation, and the Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline. He supported the American Clean Energy and Security Act, the Land and Water Conservation fund, Offshore Drilling Safety Reform, Clean Water Protections, and the Endangered Species Act. Congressman Loebsack will face a well-funded opponent in November who will likely attract substantial out-of-state SuperPAC money since Iowa's 2nd Congressional District is considered a swing district by the national Republican Party. Iowa Sierra Club encourages its members who live in the 2nd Congressional District to vote for Congressman Loebsack and actively support his re-election.

Former Chair Greg Nepstad Running for State Representative

Greg Nepstad was on the Iowa Chapter executive committee for 12 years, serving two years as Chapter Chair. His impact on the chapter is still evident today. While Greg was still on the executive committee, the dream of having full-time staff for the Chapter was realized. Greg led the effort to move our office from its former home to its present location on Merle Hay Road in order to accommodate the hiring of a director. Greg was also the architect of our present newsletter format which allowed the local Sierra Groups to include their newsletters - saving them 100% of their mailing costs while reaching the whole Chapter. Greg has been a long-time supporter of Sierra Club and has been our Chapter's top donor.

If elected, Greg will represent Guthrie and Adair Counties in the Iowa House. Greg would be an outspoken advocate for the environment in the legislature. His campaign website hosts articles such as "Nuclear Power - Worst Idea in the History of Civilization." Greg is counting on Sierra Club members for campaign support. More information about his campaign can be found through the website, Nepstadforrep.com.

Iowa Legislative Candidates

The following legislators have been endorsed after a careful examination of their voting record over the past 2 years by the Chapter Executive Committee, Chapter Political Committee and in some cases by local Sierra Club Groups, or by reviewing their responses to our questionnaire. Iowa Sierra Club encourages you to not only vote for these candidates but to actively work toward their election. The candidates' names are followed by their district number and city of residence.

Iowa House Candidates

George Warren Yaple	HD 15 Council Bluffs
Greg Nepstad	HD 20 Panora
Dan Kelley	HD 29 Newton
Ruth Ann Gaines	HD 32 Des Moines
Bruce Hunter	HD 34 Des Moines
Ako Abdul-Samad	HD 35 Des Moines
Marti Anderson	HD 36 Des Moines
Jo Oldson	HD 41 Des Moines
Susan Judkins	HD 43 Clive
Beth Wessel-Kroeschell	HD 45 Ames
Lisa Heddens	HD 46 Ames
Donovan Olson	HD 47 Boone
Sharon Steckman	HD 53 Mason City
Tom Schueller	HD 58 Maquoketa
Bob Kressig	HD 59 Cedar Falls
Anesa Kajtazovic	HD 61 Waterloo
Art Staed	HD 66 Cedar Rapids
Mark Seidl	HD 67 Cedar Rapids
Todd Taylor	HD 70 Cedar Rapids
Mark Smith	HD 71 Marshalltown
Dave Jacoby	HD 74 Coralville
Vicki Lansing	HD 85 Iowa City
Mary Mascher	HD 86 Iowa City
Cindy Winkler	HD 90 Davenport
Chuck Isenhardt	HD 100 Dubuque

Iowa Senate Candidates

Janet Peterson	SD 18 Des Moines
John Beard	SD 28 Decorah
Jeff Danielson	SD 30 Waterloo
Liz Mathis	SD 34 Cedar Rapids
Nate Willems	SD 48 Lisbon
Pam Jochum	SD 50 Dubuque

IOWA SIERRAN

Editor: Jane R. Clark
Associate Editor: Jo Hudson

The Iowa Sierran is dedicated to informing members and other friends about environmental issues that affect Iowa. It is a forum for the expression of ideas on topics of environmental concern, as well as the voice of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club. Articles with a byline represent the research and opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the Sierra Club.

We invite submissions of letters, articles, photographs and illustrations. Letters and articles must be complete, accurate and identified with your name, address and phone number(s).

Deadlines are March 5 for the Spring-Summer issue; July 5 for the Autumn issue; and November 5 for the Winter issue. Preference will be given to articles 400-1,000 words in length that relate to Iowa. Longer articles will be considered. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity, space and libel reasons. Copy may be submitted by email, or typed or clearly handwritten and sent to Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter, 3839 Merle Hay Rd, Suite 280, Des Moines, Iowa 50310. Articles sent by email should be included in the body of the message, not sent as an attachment. If you must attach a file, use a Word document and send to [jrclark\(AT\)radiks.net](mailto:jrclark(AT)radiks.net).

A subscription to the Iowa Sierran is included in the cost of Sierra Club membership. For nonmembers, a subscription is \$5 per year.



IOWA SIERRA CLUB AWARDS

The Iowa Chapter of Sierra Club honors activists and volunteers for their efforts to protect the environment. Please consider nominating someone for an award. Winners will be presented with their award at the 2012 annual meeting on September 22 at Whiterock Conservancy.

Deadline for nominations is August 22, 2012

The nomination must include:

- Award Category
- Name of nominee
- Address and phone number of nominee
- Statement of why you think the nominee should receive the award
- Your name, address and phone number.

If it is a group nomination give the name of a contact person. The Iowa Chapter Executive Committee will review nominations and nominations received after the deadline may not be considered.

Submit nominations by Email if possible by August 22 to Neila Seaman at neila.seaman@sierraclub.org or by mail to Sierra Club, 3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280, Des Moines, IA 50310.

Award Categories

Distinguished Service - For a Club member who has shown service to the Club over a number of years. This is the Iowa Chapter's highest award.

Activist Award - For a member who has served the Club in any capacity during the past year in a way that greatly promoted the goals and purposes of the Iowa Chapter of Sierra Club.

Business Service Award - For a business or individual in business who has contributed significantly to environmental issues directly affecting Iowa.

Environmental Journalism - For a person working in the news media who has contributed significantly to environmental understanding at a community, county, or state level.

Steward of the Land Award - For a farmer or other individual whose agricultural practices promote soil conservation and/or other environmentally positive results.

Public Service Award - For a legislative or governmental employee or appointee who has contributed significantly to environmental issues directly affecting Iowa.

Environmental Educator Award - For an educator at any level of education who has contributed significantly to an increased understanding of the environment.

Grassroots Award - For any individual whose contributions have resulted in significant change regarding the environment in a local community.

Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station

By Wally Taylor and Pam Mackey Taylor

Members of the Iowa Chapter have been attending public meetings concerning the crippled Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station. Fort Calhoun sits on the Missouri River a few miles north of Omaha. Fort Calhoun was shut down for refueling in April, 2011, and remains shut down.

On June 21, 2012, the Iowa Chapter submitted a petition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission asking that the license to operate Fort Calhoun be revoked. The petition described the safety violations and lax management by Omaha Public Power District (OPPD), the owner of the nuclear plant, dating back to 1992. The flood of 2011 brought increased inspections that uncovered the past violations that had either not been reported or not corrected. The petition concluded that OPPD, by virtue of its continued problems at Fort Calhoun for the past 20 years, is unable and unwilling to operate Fort Calhoun safely and reliably.

When the Missouri River flooded in June of 2011, the plant was protected by aqua dams and sandbags. For several years Omaha Public Power District fought with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the need to upgrade its flood protection. Luckily the plant owner reluctantly agreed to the upgrade, which was completed shortly before the flood. Otherwise the 2011 flooding of the Missouri would have had much more serious effects on Fort Calhoun.

After the floodwaters receded in September, 2011, the employees began an extensive inspection process, which was supervised by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Although the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was aware of problems at Fort Calhoun before the flood, the inspections following the flood have pointed out serious problems in the management, culture of the employees toward safety issues, operating processes and procedures, and overall safety of the equipment at the power plant.

Problem after problem is being identified during the inspection process. Among the problems found are:

- No one reported smelling an electrical short or fire for 3 days. Subsequently the circuit breaker that was smoking caught fire that led to a 90-minute loss of power to the spent

fuel pool on June 7, 2012.

- An investigation into the cause of the fire led to a series of troubling discoveries. When the circuit breaker had been replaced several years earlier, the company that made the original circuit breaker was no longer in business. A substitute circuit breaker was acquired. However the two circuit breakers were not identical in size. When the new circuit breaker was installed, it had to be forced into the rack. That led to poor contact which led to the fire.

- To top off the problems, the replacement circuit breaker had hardened grease on it. Grease is not supposed to be on the circuit breaker. One can only conclude that the grease was needed in order to force the circuit breaker into the rack.

- Written procedures are not being followed or need to be significantly updated.

In response to these and other problems, Gary Gates, the CEO of Omaha Public Power District, told the NRC commissioners on February 22, 2012, that OPPD had “lost its edge” and “let the industry down”. In public meetings the OPPD staff repeatedly says that they want to “get back to excellence”. However, after attending a number of public meetings involving the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff and OPPD executives and staff, it is obvious that OPPD needs to learn how to walk before they run. The agency responsible for ensuring this is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

What these examples illustrate is the need for a strong Nuclear Regulatory Commission that takes its role as a regulator seriously. The NRC must be willing to aggressively perform their oversight role. In spite of this, several whistleblowers have brought forth serious concerns about the functioning of the NRC management in carrying out their regulatory functions with respect to Fort Calhoun as well as other nuclear power plants. Congressman Edward Markey from Massachusetts has requested an “independent investigation of systemic allegations of retaliation against Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff that report

safety concerns or refuse to weaken nuclear reactor safety findings.” In the public sphere, it appears that the NRC is diligently working on ensuring that the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station is indeed safe before it begins operating. However these whistleblower allegations are serious and need to be investigated.

This issue is of great concern to Iowans. Should Fort Calhoun have problems involving radioactive discharges, Iowans could be seriously affected:

- The prevailing winds would move radioactive discharges into Iowa. Fukushima showed us that discharges move in plumes following the prevailing winds.

- Any radioactive material landing in the Missouri River would be transported along the Iowa border south of the plant, as well as potentially contaminating other states downstream.

- A significant nuclear release could affect key transportation corridors in western Iowa, including I-680, I-29, and I-80. Significant releases could close those segments of the interstate for generations.

- A radioactive discharge could affect the Loess Hills, a unique natural area running down the western boarder of Iowa. There are parks and recreation areas through the Loess Hills. The Loess Hills and Missouri River Valley are a key bird migration corridor, heavily used by hawks, waterfowl, and other birds.

- Communities, schools, businesses, farmland, and homes would be affected by radioactive discharges.

- Council Bluffs is the largest western Iowa community that would potentially be subject to a significant radioactive release.

- Exposure to radiation can cause significant medical problems.

The public is counting on a strong Nuclear Regulatory Commission working on behalf of the public. Sloppy work, attempting to cover up problems or to minimize problems, and failing to regulate this industry is unacceptable. The Iowa Chapter will continue to monitor the situation at Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station as the Omaha Public Power District struggles to return the nuclear power plant to operation.

Legislative Wrap-Up ...

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the Legislature, not by administrative fiat”, before he then signed the Executive Order.

The Des Moines Register Editorial Board observed on May 14, 2012, “The governor, not the Natural Resources Commission, is the one who appears to be overstepping his authority. And contaminating Iowa’s outdoors in doing so.”

You can find out more about this issue, links to the science and the history of the dove hunting bill during the 2011 legislative session and the NRC’s rulemaking process on the Chapter website at www.iowa.sierraclub.org. You can also take a look at the “Nontoxic and Lead Shot Literature Review” produced by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in 2008 at http://www.nwtf.org/NAWTMP/downloads/Literature/Nontoxic_Lead_Shot_Literature_Review.pdf.

It is unclear whether or not the NRC will reconsider the dove hunting rule since the Executive Order rescinded the rule that contained the lead ammunition prohibition.

Senate Nuclear Bill Passed Committee But Never Debated

Two days after the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, the Senate Commerce Committee, determined to expand nuclear power in Iowa, amended and passed House File 561 by an 8-7 vote on March 13. In the end, victory was ours when the Senate adjourned without debating HF561 on the floor.

Nuclear power definitely isn’t a solution to Iowa’s energy needs. And, nuclear power definitely isn’t clean. It may not emit the amount of greenhouse gases as coal plants; but safety and storage of spent fuel issues have never been resolved. The technology MidAmerican Energy suggests it will use (but was not restricted to use in the bill) has not been approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and, therefore, is not operating anywhere in the world.

A memo from the staff of the Iowa Utilities Board on December 23, 2011 provided a stinging economic critique of legislation passed by the Iowa House in 2011 that would make ratepayers liable for massive utility costs and cost overruns from building new nuclear power plants.

The memo acknowledged that, as amended, the bill “would shift nearly all of the construction, licensing and

permitting risk associated with one or more nuclear plants from the company to its customers...[by] guaranteeing recovery of pre-approved prudent costs, including a profit on capital investments. Some of these provisions could create incentives for the company to engage in behavior that could be contrary to the public interest in certain situations...” Further, the bill would require “that the Board allow full recovery of all prudent expenditures incurred for the proposed plant(s), including profits, if the utility decides, for any reason, not to complete the plant...” Finally, the IUB staff wrote that the bill “could effectively create an incentive for the utility to walk away from the plant.”

In response, the Senate Commerce Committee passed amendments Committee leadership said “fixed” the bill. However, the amendments did nothing more than require MidAmerican Energy to wait until it begins spending money on its proposed nuclear plant before the Iowa Utilities Board could approve collecting increased rates by the energy company. MidAmerican Energy still has not provided a report to legislators, who in 2010 approved the energy company spending \$15 million of ratepayers’ money to study the feasibility of constructing a new nuclear power plant in Iowa.

See the facts about this bill and other information the Chapter provided during this legislative session at <http://iowa.sierraclub.org/Legislature/WhySenatorsShouldVoteNoOnHf561.htm>.

We Saved Iowa’s Public Lands

The Iowa House of Representatives never debated House File 2449, referred to as the “government efficiency” bill, that directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to inventory all of its public lands (Division V, Section 16) and prohibited the DNR from purchasing any additional agricultural land (Division V, Section 17).

Rather than accept the House bill, the Senate moved its own version of an “efficiency” bill through the process and passed it 49-0 on April 19. The House, convinced its bill would never pass the Senate, finally abandoned HF2449 and adopted the Senate version 93-0 on April 25. The Senate bill made no mention of selling off public lands. Gov. Branstad signed the bill on May 9.

House File 2449:

Risked Iowa’s Water Quality. Iowa law defines agricultural land as virtually all land in Iowa. The DNR would have been prohibited from purchasing wetlands, prairies, parks and river buffers to protect water quality.

Was Fiscally Irresponsible. Public land in Iowa generates nearly \$4 billion annually. HF2449 would have sacrificed the land we all share, land that is important to our economy.

HF2449 originally anticipated generating \$20 million from the sale of public lands to fund the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program. Rep. Peter Cownie (R-Polk), floor manager of HF2449, ultimately abandoned the idea when it was discovered the DNR did not have that much public land in inventory to sell. State parks, state forests and land purchased with federal funds could not be sold. Cownie told The Des Moines Register on April 25 that “We did find \$3.5 million...That’s a lot of money to a lot of Iowans.”

The Return of the “Ag Gag” Bill

House File 589, the bill that prohibits entering on or damaging property associated with a facility or operation where animals or crops are maintained, returned to the General Assembly. The bill as passed by the House in 2011 essentially makes it illegal for a person to audio or video record the operation and prohibits committing fraud by obtaining access to the facility or crop operation by false pretenses for the purpose of committing an act not authorized by the owner or by making a false statement as part of an employment application. Sen. Joe Seng (D-Scott) introduced amendment S-5004 in January 2012 that substantially changed the bill to make it illegal to gain employment by fraudulent means.

The Senate passed the amended bill 40-10 on February 25. The House agreed to the Senate’s amended bill and passed it 69-28 on February 28. The law became effective on March 2 when the governor signed it.

Thank you to all of our members and supporters who responded to our action alerts and attended our lobby days.

Thank you to all of the legislators who supported our positions for our reasons or reasons of their own.

Thank you to all of our partners whose long hours paid off.

Renewable Energy Jobs 2020

By Pam Mackey-Taylor

This summer the Iowa Chapter joined environmental allies and businesses to advance the Renewable Energy Jobs 2020 plan. This plan includes a goal of producing 40% of electricity by 2020, expanding energy efficiency programs for all utilities, giving Iowans a fair price for generating renewable electricity for the grid, denying special rate-payer financing for nuclear power, supporting the development of passenger rail in Iowa, and providing incentives for fuel efficient vehicles. When the renewable energy initiatives are fully implemented in 2020, it is expected that 20,000 additional jobs will have been created and Iowans will save at least \$1 billion annually in energy costs.

This agenda is a natural outgrowth of the work we have been doing in moving beyond coal to 21st century energy policies. The text of the agenda follows:

Iowa Renewable Energy Jobs 2020

“Iowa Renewable Energy Jobs 2020” will create jobs, save consumers money, grow Iowa businesses, and meet our obligations to future generations.

Iowa has been a leader in renewable energy and energy efficiency. We need to do much more to achieve the full benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency for our state. This is important for our economy, energy security, public health, the environment, and long-term prosperity.

The Iowa Renewable Energy Jobs 2020 will:

- Create at least 20,000 additional Iowa clean energy jobs by 2020.
- Save Iowans at least \$1 billion each year in energy costs.

How to Accomplish These Goals:

Expand Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency

- Produce 40% of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.
- Expand energy efficiency programs for all utilities.
- Diversify renewable electricity sources.
- Give Iowans a fair price for generating renewable electricity for the grid.
- Dramatically reduce the public health and environmental costs of fossil fuels.
- Say “NO” to special ratepayer financing for new nuclear plants.

Reduce Transportation Costs

- Provide incentives for the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Provide incentives for electric vehicles, charging stations, and grid improvements.
- Support the development and expansion of passenger rail.
- Promote land use and urban management decisions that cut travel costs.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We need you to serve! The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Iowa Chapter of Sierra Club is looking for members to accept nomination for election to the Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter ExCom. The Executive Committee is made up of eleven members and is elected by the chapter membership in December. Members elected begin their term at the first meeting in January and serve a three-year term. The ExCom meets about six times a year for a half day at locations throughout the state. Offices of chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer, and committee chairs are selected from the ExCom. Committee work such as political activity, legislative, fundraising, conservation and personnel help to carry out the functions of the ExCom and the chapter. Candidates for the ExCom are individuals dedicated to protecting our state’s natural resources, who are willing to meet as needed to serve on an organizational committee. If you are interested in helping make decisions about the priorities, activities and political endorsements of the Sierra Club in Iowa, or know of someone who is, please nominate yourself or another person. Candidate statements will be published in the December newsletter on the ballot and should consist of a statement of 100-150 words or less. Please send nominations to iowa.chapter@sierraclub.org or mail to Sierra Club, Iowa Chapter, 3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280, Des Moines, IA 50310.

IOWA CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!

Iowa Chapter is continuing its work in protecting the environment, preserving Iowa’s natural areas, and advocating for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation of energy. Through the efforts of our director and assistance of our activist volunteers, the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club delivers pressure on our government officials to generate change. It is our enlistment of those grassroots activists that distinguishes us from other environmental organizations.

This spring we worked with our allies to defeat legislation that would require the sale of public lands, and an amendment that would force the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to assess the value of public lands that could be used in farming.

We also helped defeat legislation that would transfer the costs of constructing a new nuclear power plant to the bill-payers before the plant was even generating the first kilowatt of electricity.

Additionally, the Chapter succeeded in preventing a Senate vote on a bill that would remove a lead-based ammunition prohibition for hunting Mourning Doves. Although the governor issued an executive order that permits the lead-based ammunition, the Chapter and its partners successfully convinced the Iowa Senate to support the ban by not voting on the bill passed by the House.

However, these accomplishments do not come free – there are costs involved. Can we count on your donation so that we can further our work?

For a non-tax-deductible contribution please write a check to the Sierra Club Iowa Chapter.

For a deductible contribution, write a check to The Sierra Club Foundation with “Iowa Chapter” written in the memo line.

All checks can be mailed to:

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter
3839 Merle Hay Road, Suite 280
Des Moines, IA 50310

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution in support of the Iowa Chapter.

Sierra Club

IOWA CHAPTER DIRECTORY

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IOWA CHAPTER OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair

Jane Clark
515-223-5047 (12/13)

Treasurer

Donna Buell
712-336-2103

Secretary

Karen Tigges
515-274-0545 (12/12)

Legal Chair

Wally Taylor
319-377-2842 (H) (12/14)
319-366-2428 (W)

Fundraising Chair

Pam Mackey-Taylor
319-377-2842 (12/14)

Conservation Co-Chairs

Steve Veysey
515-232-4635

Jane R. Clark
515-223-5047 (12/13)

Political Chair

Charles Winterwood
563-588-2783 (12/13)

Legislative Chair

Debbie Neustadt
515-263-0297 (12/14)

Virginia Soelberg

515-253-0232 (12/12)

Gerald Neff

563-332-5373 (12/12)

Shirley Danskin-White

515-965-1072 (12/13)

Francis Thicke

641-919-8554

Margaret Whiting

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