CAUCUS RESOLUTIONS

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Climate Change

In order to protect the public from the effects of climate change, be it resolved that we support:
1. Undertaking efforts immediately to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases and to bring the level of CO2 in the atmosphere below 350 parts per million
2. Increasing renewable energy production to 100% in Iowa by 2030.
3. The Iowa legislature establishing an agriculture climate adaptation task force housed within the Department of Agriculture that is charged to prepare an agriculture climate adaptation report. The purpose of the report is to identify factors and trends attributable to climate change that are projected to impact agricultural productivity, identify and evaluate available methods and technologies to ameliorate the effects of climate change on agriculture, and provide recommendations necessary to achieve the objectives.
4. The Iowa legislature implementing a carbon tax.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Air Quality

In order to protect the public health of all citizens, be it resolved that we support the Environmental Protection Agency setting limits on the amount of hydrogen sulfide and ammonia that can be emitted into the air. Exposure to hydrogen sulfide and ammonia exacerbates cardiovascular conditions, including asthma.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Protecting Our Democracy

In order to protect our Democracy, be it resolved that we support:
1. Protecting voter rights - allowing every adult US citizen to vote without being required to show an ID to exercise that right, automatic voter registration, allowing voter registration on election day, and preserving felons’ voting rights.
2. Placing enforceable limits on campaign expenditures.
3. Amending the United States Constitution so that corporations are not people and money is not speech.
4. Amending the Iowa Constitution to clarify that the procedure for selecting and nominating judges for the state courts cannot be changed by the legislature.
5. Amending Iowa’s Constitution so that corporations are not people:
   ARTICLE VIII, CORPORATIONS, Limitations on Rights and Powers of Corporations. Sec. 12. Corporations are nothing more than business organizations created pursuant to Section 1 of this Article. Corporations have only those powers and rights specifically granted to them by the law creating them. Corporations are not persons or citizens under the law, and they have none of the rights of natural persons.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Agriculture

The Iowa Department of Agriculture should action to:
1. Advise farmers on adapting to evolving weather patterns
2. Restore soil health
3. Improve Iowa’s water quality
4. Expand the ability of Iowa farmers to produce locally grown food that can feed Iowans
CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Trade

We support trade agreements that protect the environment and human health both in the United States and in our trading partner’s homeland. We support trade agreements with countries that allow their citizens the right to unionize. We oppose any trade agreements which allow foreign corporations to sue governments in secret and unaccountable trade tribunals, potentially extracting huge fines if a country’s laws get in the way of corporate profit, since such extrajudicial suits constitute a threat to our system of health, labor, and environmental protections.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Keeping public money in public hands for the public good

We support a state budget that focuses on the keeping the public money in public hands for the public good, including

1. Setting goals that reflect the real needs of Iowa. We propose goals for the state of Iowa that reflect the fiduciary responsibilities of government to care for the things we share and to ensure equal access to benefits like health, clean water, roads, schools and everything else in the common wealth. By working to meet these goals, we will be able to build the foundation of a regenerative economy and a sustainable Iowa, which fosters the health and well-being of the land and people.
2. Depositing public money in a state bank. Terminating banking relationships with banks sanctioned for fraud.
3. Establishing the corporate tax rate at an appropriate level to fund the key state budget goals
   a. Closing corporate tax loopholes built into the tax code
   b. Eliminating the research tax credit and re-allocate the refunds from the research credit to the public universities. The research tax credit creates refunds when the tax credit exceeds a company's or individual's state tax liability and no state income tax is owed.
4. Providing funding to implement Iowa’s nutrient reduction strategy of 45% reduction by 2035
5. Encouraging regenerative agriculture that promotes biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds, and enhances ecosystem services.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Effective regulation of animal confinements

In order to protect air quality, water quality, and people’s health, we support strong, effective regulation of animal feeding operations, including:

1. A moratorium on building and expanding confined animal feeding operations until we can guarantee that they will not degrade Iowa’s air and water quality.
2. No confined animal feeding operation should be built on karst terrain
3. No confined animal feeding operation should be built on the watershed of an outstanding Iowa water.
4. No confined animal feeding operation should be located in a subwatershed that drains into a water body that has been placed on the impaired waters list.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Environmental Quality Act

Because humans have adversely impacted the natural environment, and because we are now at a critical time for the future of the Earth, the Iowa Legislature should enact the Iowa Environmental Quality Act into law requiring state and local governments to prepare environmental impact statements for actions significantly affecting the environment and to implement the proposed action so that the environmental impacts will be avoided.
CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Protecting Natural Resources

In order to protect Iowa’s and the Nation’s Natural Resources, be it resolved that we support:

1. Reducing nutrients in Iowa’s waters by establishing numerical standards for nutrients for Iowa’s lakes, rivers, and streams, including a reasonable date for each water body to meet the standards, regularly monitoring each of the major watersheds and lakes for nutrients, posting the water quality results online, enforcing compliance, and providing adequate funding to ensure that the level of nutrients in Iowa’s water bodies is reduced 45% by 2035.

2. Extending and fully funding Iowa Resources Enhancement And Protection (REAP) fund beyond 2021 in order to fund parks and recreation and natural resources.

3. Passing a 3/8 of one cent sales tax to support the Natural Resources & Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund and protecting the current formula of distribution.

4. Expanding Iowa’s parks and recreation areas

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Protecting the Loess Hills

The Loess Hills are a unique landform of wind-blown silt (called loess) up to 200 feet deep running 200 miles along the Missouri River in western Iowa. The only other place where Loess has accumulated to such heights is along the Yellow River in China. The majority of Iowa’s remnant prairies lie within the Loess Hills, and they are home to several endangered plant and animal species. In northwest Iowa, the Loess Hills host species native to both the dryer shortgrass prairies to the west and the tallgrass prairie that existed historically throughout Iowa. It is, therefore, unique both biologically and geologically. This narrow strip of land has been fragmented by human developments such that natural areas exist only in small, isolated patches today. Reconnecting these natural areas can serve as a desperately needed wildlife corridor. By becoming a National Reserve, this “rewilding” of natural areas could enhance the stewardship of and partnership between public and private land owners. Therefore, be it resolved that we support designating the Iowa Loess Hills as a National Reserve, which would retain land in private hands as well as support the land in public hands, to protect these fragile structures through awareness, education, and best practices, to publicize the region’s value to decision makers, residents, and visitors, and to open funding opportunities to protect the Loess Hills and its woodlands, prairies, and wildlife.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION – Environmental Protection Amendment

Because humans have adversely impacted the natural environment, and because we are now at a critical time for the future of the Earth, the following Amendment should be added to the Iowa Constitution:

ARTICLE I, BILL OF RIGHTS, Protection of the Environment, Sec. 25. The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation and restoration of the natural, scenic, historic and aesthetic values of the environment. Iowa’s natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustees of these resources, the State of Iowa, and its political subdivisions, shall conserve, maintain, and restore them for the benefit of all the people. All laws and ordinances adopted by the State of Iowa and its political subdivisions, and the enforcement and execution thereof, shall be consistent with this Section.