



*Iowa House of Representatives*

March 4, 2021

To: State Rep. Holly Brink, Chair  
House Government Oversight Committee

Copy: State Rep. Ruth Ann Gaines, Ranking Member  
House Government Oversight Committee

From: State Rep. Chuck Isenhart  
Member, House Government Oversight Committee

About: Oversight of State and Local Carbon Reduction Actions

Dear Rep. Brink:

I urge you to convene the House Government Oversight Committee to consider the current state and sufficiency of actions taken by state and local governments to reduce public sector carbon emissions, as well as to promote and support carbon emission reductions and transitions to a carbon-neutral economy in the private sector through common sense standards, regulations and incentives.

In recent months, the Federal Reserve has identified climate change as a significant risk to financial stability. Federal Reserve economist Glenn Rudebusch wrote that “the effects of climate change are inescapable and include far-reaching economic and financial consequences for many households and businesses.”

Federal Reserve Governor Lael Brainard told the Institute of International Finance: “With climate-related risks on the rise, governments, regulators, corporations, and investors are mobilizing to accelerate the transition to a greener economy, including through ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”

I request that a legislative oversight inquiry include an evaluation of the current and future effects of evolving atmospheric conditions and weather patterns on agriculture, making recommendations to the General Assembly regarding how public and private stakeholders can prevent, mitigate, and adapt to their associated risks and impacts, including flood resilience measures and emerging opportunities for land use and rural economic development.

I recommend that the committee work through the Iowa Office of State-Federal Relations and the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to understand the emerging priorities of the federal government and to identify opportunities for federal-state-local-private partnerships, including in the areas of energy, transportation, industry, agriculture and building energy efficiency.

I encourage the Oversight Committee to recommend whether statutory changes and/or expanded resources are needed for Iowa to enhance our state’s response to climate change.

I thank you for your timely response to this request.