



Agribusiness Association of Iowa

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Mr. Matt Hinch
Chief of Staff
Governor Terry E. Branstad
1107 E. Grand Ave.
State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

On behalf of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, (AAI), and our 1,100 members, I am writing to express support for the Iowa Water Quality funding provided by this year's legislative session, (House File 2458 and Senate File 2363), and I encourage Governor Branstad NOT to line item veto any of the funds provided for this purpose. AAI has been a strong supporter of the Nutrient Management Strategy, and we are actively working with our retail agronomic members and Iowa's 1,200 Certified Crop Advisors to implement programs in support of this strategy.

AAI has hired additional staff, put together new committees, and developed new initiatives in support of Iowa's Nutrient Strategy. We are actively providing additional AAI resources to this effort, as are many of our members. Iowa is a lead state in regards to adoption of a Strategy, and we are being watched from all areas of the country to determine if we are successful in the implementation process.

At this juncture, funding as provided by the legislature is critical to maintain the positive momentum that Iowa currently has. We know that the Governor has played a leadership role in support of these funds for water quality and the nutrient management initiatives over the past years and we want to build on your support of this voluntary approach by the agriculture community in finding practical solutions to these complex issues and a strong agriculture and Iowa economy.

AAI has been actively engaged in the legislative process, both in 2013 and 2014 to ensure appropriate funding is provided to support this strategy. These funds are needed to continue to demonstrate, accelerate and record success in the adoption of practices which reduce nutrient movement to Iowa and Gulf waters. All of the funds provided in this year's appropriations will be leveraged with additional dollars through cost share funding as they are matched with farmer investments and other local funds. Many of our local retailers and certified crop advisors will likely be participants in these cost shared projects, and they provide great educational tools for local farmers and agribusinesses. These programs incentivize the implementation of additional programs regarding individual farmer adoption of new management practices at their own expense for the benefit of load reductions of Nitrogen and Phosphorous into Iowa's waters.

Water Quality is a very valuable resource to Iowa's, and one that we don't take for granted.

We strongly encourage your support of the funding provided through this year's legislative session.

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Cc: Julie Van De Hoef, Policy Advisor, Governor Terry E. Branstad