

Dear _____

As the elected official charged with making decisions for our state on my behalf, I am compelled to write this today to voice my concern over & opposition to a pair of bills that were recently introduced in the Iowa legislature - HF 542 & SSB 1221.

These bills pose a direct threat to the future of public lands and conservation in Iowa as well as access to public lands for all Iowans. No matter where you stand politically, this bill represents nothing of progress, nothing of a better future, and nothing of value for Iowa's communities and economies. These bills grossly restrict public entities from improving the quality of life for Iowans by denuding their ability to expand outdoor recreational opportunities, a category in which our great state ranks 49th.

Our public lands and outdoor recreation opportunities provide vital economic support to the entire state, but especially to our rural communities which rely on the jobs, consumer spending, and public health benefits that outdoor recreation provides. The damage this could have on Iowa's already fragile tourism industry could be catastrophic to our smallest communities & impact the livelihoods of thousands of Iowa residents and registered voters.

As Iowa strives to attract and maintain people to live, work, and raise families within its borders, we need to provide quality of life features that they need and demand. At the top of the list —along with good jobs — is a clean, healthy environment and outdoor recreation opportunities. Public land plays a special role in filling these important needs. Where else can members of the public find such affordable amenities as those provided by our state, county, and local governments? We need to continue the legacy of public spaces for future Iowans. We need to support our existing parks, trails and wildlife areas and continue to look for ways to expand our outdoor opportunities.

As a lifelong resident of western Iowa, possessing one of the world's most unique landforms, the iconic Loess Hills, I am particularly concerned about the impact these bills will have on current efforts to support, protect, & promote the unique geological landforms, the fragile systems that they support, and the tourism dollars they provide. This region is deserving of legislative support & these bills could have a disastrous effect on their stewardship & conservation, and on the residents and economies they support.

We will all be remembered for the choices we made during our time on this earth and the legacy we leave our descendants. For our politicians, their political legacy is forever recorded in the annals of our state's legislature. As a politician, I'm sure you are wary of a legacy tarnished and hollowed by short-sighted and short-lived political gain. You are worthy of more.

With faith that you will create a legacy worthy of those that elected you,

[INSERT SIGNATURE HERE]

First Name, Last Name,
Address