



# TALKING TO YOUR LAWMAKER

## IOWA NATURAL RESOURCES AND OUTDOOR RECREATION TRUST FUND



### WHAT IS THE TRUST?

Iowans in 2010 voted overwhelmingly to create the constitutionally protected Trust Fund, to be financed by a 3/8 cent increase in the statewide sales tax.

The Trust Fund will create a permanent, accountable funding source to improve fish and wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation, and quality of life throughout all 99 counties.

### WHAT TO TELL LEGISLATORS:

- **Support tax reform:** Increasing the sales tax to Fund the Trust can be done while cutting other taxes, leaving a net positive impact on Iowa taxpayers.
- **Habitat and wetlands:** Iowa sportsmen lack access to quality hunting and fishing opportunities. Our children and grandchildren will have even fewer opportunities if we do not take action, because less than 10% of Iowa's original wetlands remain.
- **Future of agriculture:** The Trust Fund will make adequate funds available to save Iowa's precious topsoil from washing into waterways through erosion, ensuring the richness of our land is preserved for future generations of producers.
- **Common sense:** The average Iowa family will pay *less than \$1 per week* to Fund the Trust.

### TIPS FOR MEETING WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR

**Prepare:** Review talking points and learn about your legislator. Call DU support staff if you have any questions at (515) 242-2440. Find your legislator at: [www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find)

**Respect:** Address legislators as "Representative" or "Senator." Always be polite.

**Personalize:** Focus on how you use and enjoy natural resources, and provide stories about how hunting and fishing has been a special part of your own family history.



**Focus:** Legislators may try to change the topic away from what you want to discuss. It is perfectly acceptable for you to say, “That is not the issue I came here to discuss...” and refocus the conversation back to Funding the Trust.

**Share your visit:** Take a photo with your legislator and share it on social media. Tag them on social media, and thank them for their time.

## WHAT YOUR LEGISLATORS MAY SAY

**Legislator:** The Trust funds a public land grab, where public money is used to acquire valuable private farm land.

**Answer:**

1. Private landowners have the right to sell their land to whomever they want.
2. 97% of the land acquired under REAP has an average Corn Suitability Rating (CSR) of 33.

**Legislator:** The Trust would give the DNR more resources to further burden the agriculture industry with more regulations.

**Answer:**

1. By law, Trust Fund dollars can only be used to support voluntary initiatives.
2. By law, Trust Fund cannot be used for regulatory efforts, enforcement actions or litigation.

**Legislator:** When the issue was on the ballot in 2010, voters were unaware they were voting for a sales tax increase.

**Answer:**

1. Statewide polls show 66% of Iowans supported a sales tax increase to Fund the Trust.
2. When combined with a reduction of income or property taxes, support rose to 73%.

**Legislator:** The Trust formula needs to allocate a higher percentage to the Governor’s nutrient reduction strategy.

**Answer:**

1. Over 60% of the Trust (more than \$128 million annually) could be applied to Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy best management practices.
2. The formula was the compromise of many stakeholders including members of the Iowa Farm Bureau.



Contact your legislators  
today! Tell them to  
support funding the  
**Natural Resources and  
Outdoor Recreation Fund**

Details at:

[www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org/](http://www.iowaswaterandlandlegacy.org/)

Find your legislator:

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