



Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee

January 4, 2008

Recommendation to the Interim Committee on Sustainable Funding for Natural Resources

After detailed and extensive research and evaluation, the Sustainable Funding Advisory Committee respectfully recommends the Interim Committee:

- 1. Present a proposal to the people of Iowa to approve a constitutionally protected fractional increase of the sales tax.** $3/8^{\text{th}}$ of 1 cent would fund the natural resource needs identified by the Advisory Committee under the three categories of Parks and Trails; Soil and Water; and Fish, Wildlife, and Natural Areas. The accountability of these protected funds should be managed through annual audits. This amendment will help secure for now and the future:
 - a. A diverse, healthy environment with cleaner water, sustainable agriculture and soils, and habitats for the broad variety of Iowa's fish, wildlife, and natural communities;
 - b. Outdoor recreation opportunities close to home where Iowans can enjoy and appreciate healthy activities, nature, and Iowa's beauty;
 - c. Sustainable natural resources and visitor attractions which are vital to our economy and a vibrant workforce in Iowa.
- 2. The proposal for this funding would ask Iowans, "Shall the Iowa Constitution be amended to provide funding, beginning July 1, 2009, to support parks and trails, protect Iowa's soil and water, and enhance wildlife, fish, and natural areas by increasing sales and use tax by $3/8$ of one cent on taxable sales, with the requirement of an annual report and audit?"**
- 3. The Advisory Committee worked carefully and diligently to reduce additional levels of bureaucracy for funding distribution by recommending current programs where applicable. A viable method of funding distribution should include the creation of a Trust Fund in the Iowa Treasury to manage the protected funds.**