



# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR  
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
RICHARD A. LEOPOLD, DIRECTOR

March 1, 2007

Honorable Governor Chester Culver and General Assembly  
Iowa State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Culver and General Assembly,

I am pleased to present to you the report submitted by the advisory committee for Sustainable Natural Resource Funding. This report outlines the results of detailed research and deliberations and provides the mandated report components directed in HF2797.

The advisory committee, composed of representatives from diverse Iowa organizations and identified legislators, came together sharing a common task and vision. After reviewing materials, hearing presentations, and discussing in detail the many aspects of natural resources and the value they bring to the citizens of Iowa, the committee explored and examined sustainable funding methods and the effects this funding for natural resources would have on Iowa's economy, Iowa's citizens, and the quality of life for all Iowans and future generations. The attached report is the result of this legislatively appointed advisory committee's work.

The committee completed the charge of providing a summary of initiatives from surrounding states, developed a needs assessment for natural resource funding, identified measurable accomplishments that could be achieved with sustainable funding, initiated a survey to better analyze Iowan's willingness to pay for sustainable funding, and successfully solicited public input during this very short five month process.

As a testimony to their passion and commitment to the concept of achieving sustainable natural resource funding, the committee is requesting that their charge be extended. The research and results have provided insight that there is additional need to explore and evaluate the economic impacts and to better identify the products that this funding will provide for Iowans.

The forethought of the legislators to bring attention to this important issue sends a strong message that there is a definite need to protect and enhance Iowa's natural resources. This forethought, along with the effort of the committee, is the beginning of the most extraordinary conservation effort in the history of the state of Iowa. Now that we have completed this first step, in order to succeed, we look forward to your vision, leadership, and support to guide us to completion.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Leopold", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Richard Leopold  
Director

Enclosed: Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Final Report