



OPPOSE HF484 and/or Amendments Concerning Regionalization

Dear Representative:

The Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission (CIRDWC) respectfully requests that you vote “no” if asked to support HF484, a bill that dissolves the water utility boards of Urbandale, West Des Moines and Des Moines.

Central Iowa currently has a commission to further regionalization — CIRDWC, a coalition of metro-area public water suppliers which are already collaborating on regionalization plans. The role of CIRDWC in the coming months will be elevated even further as we endeavor to regionalize.

- ***Regionalization is extremely complex and must be left to water professionals.*** CIRDWC has taken a methodical, data-driven approach to regionalization thus far: production, distribution, permitting, demand projections and asset management decisions are ***extremely complex and must be left to water professionals***—those who have decades of experience in the field.
- ***Regionalization should not be forced onto communities that may not be able to afford it.*** Forced regionalization, if mandated by state law, may force communities to contribute millions of dollars to buy in. Costly and important decisions such as this must be left to local control within the communities.
- ***Regionalization is a local interest*** and should be addressed by local water professionals and leaders who are knowledgeable of the intricacies of our systems and communities, and who wish to work in a collaborative manner towards improved source water quality.
- ***Dissolution of the water utility boards and transferring assets and operation into their respective cities as a step toward regionalization is unnecessary.*** The current bill would dissolve the utility boards of Des Moines, Urbandale and West Des Moines. Nothing is gained by moving the utilities from their current structure to a city department. The forced transition of finances, contracts, employee benefits, etc. will create months of work and chaos not to mention the costs that would be borne by the ratepayers.

Thank you for your time and for your opposition to HF484 and/or any amendments concerning regionalization.

Respectfully submitted,

Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission
22 Members Listed on Reverse Side

Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission Members:

City of Altoona
City of Ankeny
City of Bondurant
City of Carlisle
City of Clive
City of Cumming
City of Johnston
City of Mitchellville
City of New Virginia
City of Norwalk
City of Pleasant Hill
City of Polk City
City of St. Charles
City of Waukee
City of Windsor Heights
Des Moines Water Works
Indianola Municipal Utilities
Polk County Board of Supervisors
Urbandale Water Utility
Warren Water District
West Des Moines Water Works
Xenia Rural Water District