

**Legislation for Dissolution of Central Iowa Drinking Water Utility Boards  
And Moving Governance Authority to the Cities**

**SF456 and HF484**

March 20, 2017

- Regionalization efforts of Central Iowa drinking water systems is ongoing.
- Experience tells us that voluntary locally lead efforts are the most successful.
- The existing system does not need to be destroyed to be improved.
- Des Moines, Urbandale and West Des Moines citizens have the right to change the structure of their drinking water systems by a “vote of the people.”
- What does legislating at the local level add?

“The Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission (CIRDWC) is a group of public water systems throughout Central Iowa, formed by 28E Agreement to improve Central Iowa through **coordinated planning and cooperation** to promote the wise use of resources. The Commission’s goal is to **provide efficient, effective infrastructure and operations to deliver adequate, safe, and affordable drinking water to the region.**”

Regionalization, in and of itself, could be positive for drinking water systems in Central Iowa, that is why in 2014 the CIRDWC commissioned Black & Veatch to study the formation of a regional production facility, *Feasibility Study for the Development of a Regional Water Production Utility*. The study was completed in 2015 and CIRDWC members have been discussing it since. Members have formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), to conduct long-range planning for Central Iowa’s drinking water needs through 2040. A final long range plan is expected by the summer of 2017. Legislating policy at the local level is not appropriate and it obstructs actions that are already occurring.

Major projects developed through cooperation and coordination by CIRDWC members include:

- Saylorville Treatment Plant
- Joint Eastside Storage and Pumping Facility
- McMullen Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Facility
- Army Post Road Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Facility

Even before CIRDWC was formalized there were regional projects developed through cooperation and coordination. Three major projects were the L.D. McMullen Water Treatment Plant, Polk county Storage and Pumping Station and the LP Moon Storage and Pumping Facility.

This legislation dismantles a long history of financial diligence and an existing, highly effective, collection of separate, locally-controlled, water systems that are currently working together to provide safe, abundant and affordable drinking water by mutual-agreement. This legislation dismantles a process and structure voted on by the citizens of West Des Moines, Urbandale and Des Moines and circumvents current law, which affords the citizens of these communities the right to vote on the structure of their drinking water system. CIRDWC members are working to improve their collaboration. The current system is highly functional to meet existing and anticipated water supply needs of Central Iowa and recognizes voting as an American principle and a basic right that should be protected, promoted, and practiced.

Allow CIRDWC to continue working on a regional structure that is favored by the members and the citizens of these Central Iowa communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

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