



## **OPPOSE HF484 and/or Amendments Concerning Regionalization**

Dear Representative:

The Executive Committee of the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission (**CIRDWC**), respectfully requests that you vote “no” if asked to support HF484, a bill whose *sole outcome* would be the dissolution of the water utility boards of Urbandale, West Des Moines and Des Moines. The bill in its current form does nothing to further *regionalization*.

*Central Iowa currently has a commission to study regionalization* — **CIRDWC**, a coalition of metro-area public water suppliers which are already collaborating on regionalization plans.

- ***Regionalization is extremely complex and must be left to the experts.*** 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 the experts***—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 as much as \$13 million to buy in. Costly and important decisions such as this must be left to local control within the communities. Central Iowa’s Wastewater Reclamation Agency (**WRA**) ***took decades to plan and implement its regionalization strategy***—not a few weeks, and it was not mandated by state law.
- ***Central Iowans are opposed to HF484. If regionalization were an issue that required legislative action wouldn’t it make sense that our local Legislators would be driving this instead of a Legislator from 100 miles away with no constituents who are impacted by the current structure?*** This is a local concern and should be addressed by local experts and leaders who are knowledgeable of the intricacies of our systems and our communities.
- ***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 tremendous costs that would be borne by the ratepayers.

***Thank you for your time and for your opposition to HF484.***

Respectfully submitted,