



## RSAI Statement: Schools and Clean Water are Both Important March 8, 2016

RSAI is an organization of nearly 70 Iowa school districts committed to supporting equal opportunities for students in rural Iowa school districts, including extending the statewide penny for school infrastructure and property tax relief. Living in rural Iowa, our school leaders also know the importance of clean water to our staff, students and stakeholders.

We commend Representatives Isenhardt and Anderson for adding this viable alternative water quality initiative to the mix of possible solutions. Water quality is not in our legislative platform, and we are clearly not experts on this important issue, yet recent proposals have tied school interests together with environmental issues. We encourage the legislature and governor to find a stable water quality funding source that does not divert resources away from schools, either prior to the current 2029 state penny sunset or into the future.

RSAI is in full support of extending the statewide penny for school infrastructure and property tax relief. We know that as long as there is time, gravity, weather, changing populations and technology advances, the need for future investments in school infrastructure will continue. The state penny sales tax has lowered the need for property tax backed bond issues from over 50 successful levy votes a year to less than 10.

We look forward to continued conversations about meeting Iowa's environmental needs without taking money away from schools.

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