



Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver
Lt. Governor Patty Judge
Lt. Gen. Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

2010 Iowa Legislative Actions Supporting Disaster Recovery and Preparedness

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Grouped by Recommendations from the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission's 120-Day Report:

RECOMMENDATION 1 - Iowa will provide support to individuals and families seeking assistance in rebuilding.

- [HF2422](#) helps make individual case management system implemented after 2008 disasters permanently available for future disaster victims. (Signed 3/22/10)
- [HF2294](#) uses local long-term recovery committees (part of the case management system) to administer a voucher program to distribute individual assistance funds in smaller disasters. (Signed 3/22/10)
- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) waives penalty and interest to amend 2008 state income tax return due to claiming disaster benefits that were only allowed on federal tax returns. (Signed 4/29/10)
- [HF2504/SF2225](#) would have doubled criminal fines in disaster areas; but did not pass.

RECOMMENDATION 2 - State and local governments should prioritize availability and affordability of adequate, affordable housing.

- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains a provision authorizing Iowa Finance Authority to utilize Housing Trust Fund monies to support the Iowa Mortgage Help Initiative. (Signed 4/29/10)

RECOMMENDATION 3 - The state should provide incentives for Iowa's small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.

- [HF2422](#) establishes a Business Disaster Recovery Task Force to outline recommendations for business disaster recovery. (Signed 3/22/10)
- [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$20K for IDED to develop a business assistance internet site and \$5M to develop and fund a small business loan program – Save our Small Businesses Fund. (Signed 4/26/10)

RECOMMENDATION 4 - The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction.

- \$72.2 million in one-time disaster funding appropriated for infrastructure.
 - [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) contains \$4.5 million for Linn County's administrative building and \$2.1 million for Cedar Rapids' federal courthouse renovation. (Signed 4/29/10)

- [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) contains I-JOBS funding for projects in several flood-impacted cities and counties, plus \$30 million for a Disaster Prevention Program (see RIAC Goal #8) and \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board (see RIAC Goal #9.) (Signed 4/26/10)

RECOMMENDATION 5 - The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.

- [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) provides more flexibility on dates that a bond issue vote may be scheduled in disaster-impacted communities. (Signed 4/29/10)
- [SF2310](#) (Natural Resources Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund) outlines implementation of a proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution. (Signed 4/23/10)
- [SF2294](#) would have created a future state disaster recovery fund once emergency funds were replenished, but did not pass.

RECOMMENDATION 6 - The state must invest in local emergency management agencies to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.

- Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
- [HSB672/SSB3187](#) would have established an Emergency Management Trust Fund, funded by a surcharge on property and casualty insurance policies purchased by Iowa property owners (\$1 on renters' policies, \$2 for policies on single family homes, mobile homes and condos; and \$4 on commercial policies), but did not pass.
- [SSB3178](#) would have set a floor property tax rate for emergency services of 40.5 cents per \$1,000 property value (no floor currently in law), but did not pass.

RECOMMENDATION 7 - The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.

- [SF 2380](#) (Tax Credit Changes) retains the Historic Preservation Tax Credit program but reduces its cap from \$50M to \$45M beginning 7/1/12. (Signed 4/15/10)
- [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$12M for Community Attraction and Tourism grant funding and \$4M for River Enhancement Community Attraction grant funding, plus funding for Main Street projects (Signed 4/26/10)

RECOMMENDATION 8 - The state will lead in developing guidance for and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.

- [SF 2389](#) (RIIF Bill) establishes Smart Planning.(Signed 4/26/10)
 - Ten Smart Planning Principles
 1. Collaboration. Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions.
 2. Efficiency, Transparency and Consistency. Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions.
 3. Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy. Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency.
 4. Occupational Diversity. Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities.
 5. Revitalization. Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses

6. Housing Diversity. Expand Housing Opportunities & Choices.
 7. Community Character. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place.
 8. Natural Resources and Agricultural Protection. Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands.
 9. Sustainable Design. Green Building & Infrastructure Design.
 10. Transportation Diversity. Variety of Transportation Choices.
- Comprehensive Planning Guidance for cities and counties
 1. Public Participation
 2. Community Issues and Opportunities
 3. Land Use
 4. Housing
 5. Public Infrastructure and Utilities
 6. Transportation
 7. Economic Development
 8. Agricultural and Natural Resources
 9. Community Facilities
 10. Community Character
 11. Hazards
 12. Intergovernmental Collaboration
 13. Implementation
 - Smart Planning Task Force to develop statewide planning goals, evaluate and develop incentives for comprehensive planning, develop a model for regional comprehensive planning, and develop recommendations for state comprehensive planning programs
 - \$30 Million Disaster Prevention Program created with I-JOBS funding, eligibility contingent on following Smart Planning. Administered by the Iowa Finance Authority.

RECOMMENDATION 9 - The state will move state policy forward and lead regional and local discussion on floodplain and watershed management.

- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) generated 16 policy recommendations
- [SF2316](#) addressed 12 policy recommendations and passed the Senate but did not pass the House Committee
 - 5 policy recommendations PASSED in other bills:
 - [HF2531](#) (Standing Appropriations Bill) requires the WRCC and others *to extent feasible* to: **1)** work on establishing an Iowa chapter of State Floodplain Managers Association, **2)** education and **3)** marketing for flood risks and floodplain awareness. (Signed 4/29/10)
 - [HF2459](#) (Watershed Bill) **4)** authorizes that funding be sought for pilot watershed projects involving IDALS, DNR and the Iowa Flood Center, and **5)** outlines potential watershed governance via Watershed Management Authorities (Signed 4/7/10)
 - Policy recommendations included in [SF2316](#) but NOT PASSED in 2010:
 - Regulate the .2% (500-year) floodplain (or a model ordinance)
 - Establish stormwater standards (or best practices)
 - Enhance safety for critical facilities (require continued operation or safe cessation during 500-year flood event)
 - Hydrological tiling study
 - WRCC to make watershed governance recommendations by 11/15/10
 - Integrate multipurpose wetlands into watersheds

- Update conservation practice criteria to reflect changing precipitation
- Water Resources Coordinating Council (WRCC) made 9 funding recommendations
 - Budget constraints made this difficult to address in 2010
 - [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill) appropriates \$2 million for the Watershed Improvement Review Board for wetland easements and flood prevention. (Signed 4/26/10)
- [SF2371](#) reduces royalty fees for removing sand and gravel from rivers in Linn and Black Hawk Counties on a pilot basis through 6/30/15. (Signed 4/23/10)
- [SSB3170](#) and [HSB608](#) explored the idea that state financial support should be withheld from certain development in the 500-year floodplain, but these bills did not pass.

RECOMMENDATION 10 - The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology, implementing the mapping process as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.

- DNR continues to coordinate this effort through CDBG funding
- The Iowa Flood Center will continue to play a major role with a specific allocation of existing CDBG funds in [SF2389](#) (RIIF Bill). (Signed 4/26/10)

RECOMMENDATION 11 - The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.

- [SF2367](#) appropriates \$647,014 and maintains 12 FTE's to support RIO during FY11 (Signed 4/29/10)
- Additional RIO funding is provided through federal sources

RECOMMENDATION 12 - All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.

- The Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council, established by [HF64](#) in 2009, ensures this recommendation is met.