

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY MERTZ

A Concurrent Resolution requesting that the legislative council establish an interim study committee to consider issues relating to and to recommend a comprehensive policy for the closure of agricultural drainage wells and the establishment of related alternative drainage systems.

WHEREAS, since 1997, the state, local communities, and landowners have cooperated to close agricultural drainage wells and establish alternative drainage systems in order to prevent possible groundwater contamination originating from these sources; and

WHEREAS, according to registration records maintained by the department of agriculture and land stewardship, there remains as many as 137 agricultural drainage wells that have not been closed as required by Iowa in Code chapter 460; and

WHEREAS, the state has established financial incentive programs, including cost-share programs supported by moneys available in the alternative drainage system assistance fund, in order to assist persons in closing agricultural drainage wells; and

WHEREAS, the department of agriculture and land stewardship has accepted applications to close agricultural drainage wells and establish related alternative drainage systems with an associated cost totaling \$19 million to be expended in a number of counties primarily located in north central Iowa; and

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to establish a

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1 comprehensive policy necessary to close these  
2 agricultural drainage wells and establish alternative  
3 drainage systems; NOW THEREFORE,

4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE  
5 SENATE CONCURRING, That the legislative council is  
6 requested to establish an interim study committee to  
7 consider issues relating to and to recommend a  
8 comprehensive policy for the closure of all remaining  
9 agricultural drainage wells and the establishment of  
10 alternative drainage systems; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study  
12 committee examine the existence of remaining unclosed  
13 agricultural drainage wells, the usefulness of  
14 provisions in Iowa Code chapter 460, the needs of  
15 landowners and local communities, and the prudent and  
16 effective level of financing necessary in order to  
17 carry out a comprehensive policy; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the interim study  
19 committee complete its charge and submit a final  
20 report with recommendations which may include proposed  
21 legislation to the legislative council and the general  
22 assembly by December 1, 2005.

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