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CITYOFWATERLOOIA.COM 

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Luana Stoltenberg
1007 E Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Senate File 455

Dear Representative Stoltenberg,

I am writing to you today to urge you to vote "No" on the proposed legislation "Senate File 455". The proposed bill would limit the ability of cities and counties to manage stormwater within their jurisdictions under the guise of making housing more affordable. In reality, the bill would have little to no impact on the affordability of housing, but would make it much harder for cities and counties to ensure that new development doesn't negatively impact our citizens in regards to flooding and drainage. Every community in Iowa has different needs and risks when it comes to flooding, infrastructure, and geography. The issue of stormwater is best addressed at the local level.

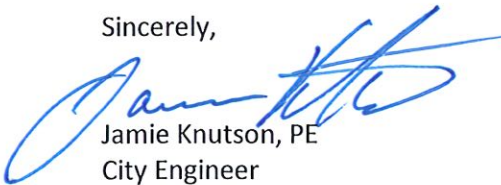
Our existing stormwater infrastructure has already reached or exceeded capacity in many areas, and it will require tens of millions of dollars to fix those existing issues. Cities and counties need to be able to require that new developments and re-developments adequately manage their stormwater in order to prevent these issues from worsening unnecessarily. If this bill passes, all of our citizens and all property owners will be forced to pick up the bill through higher stormwater fees or property taxes.

We can all agree that affordable housing is an important issue that should be addressed, but it cannot be done at the expense of worsening flooding issues for existing property owners. This is an issue that is extremely important to our citizens, and is consistently brought forth when new developments are under review.

Again, I urge you to vote "No" on the proposed legislation, and I hope that you will consider the future of the City of Waterloo and the State of Iowa if this legislation were to be passed.

Please feel free to contact me at 319-291-4312, or Jamie.Knutson@waterloo-ia.org with any questions or if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,



Jamie Knutson, PE
City Engineer

cc: Dennis Gentz, PE, Assistant City Engineer
Wayne Castle, PLS, PE, Associate Engineer
Cameron Agan, Storm Water Specialist

