The Rep (Jarad Klein) who introduced the bill says emphatically that the Farm Bureau has had no influence on this bill being introduced or written. I do not believe that nor do I appreciate being treated as if the public is uniformed and unable to rationally determine truth. I would ask why a pig farmer from SE Iowa cares how the rates are determined from a municipal water supply and how the surrounding communities do have a choice in where to get their drinking water yet they all still choose DMWW, whereas a few are doing their civic duty and exploring water treatment facilities to see the cost effectiveness as well as other inherit issues they would be tasked to address, it is still their CHOICE to do so or not do so. This bill takes away choice, takes away the rights of over 500,000 people to decide how their municipal utility operates and makes no effort to describe the issues of water quality being maintained or how a regional board would accomplish rate uniformity.

I say this to exclude or refute the condition that because I work for DMWW somehow makes my view biased. I assure you I am as real and direct as a person can be, especially about an industry I hold a 4 year degree in and have served within my entire career. This bill sets a dangerous precedent of when a lobby doesn't like what a city or an arm of that city as in DMWW is doing they find ways to halt that path through state legislation. DMWW has a duty to its customers to plan for now and future, even the EPA SDWA Amendments of 1996 state that a water utility has to be "viable" which includes three tiers of evaluation, that being compliance, management and financial well being which means raising rates in a fair and equitable format is how DMWW stays in compliance with federal rules and regulations. DMWW has never had more issue than of late with compliance while trying to figure out if the people of central Iowa should have to pay for farming practices that degrade our source(s) of drinking water to a point where we struggle to meet demands.

I ask upon you both to please vote no on HF 316 (or same in Senate) as this is not the way to solve the issue at hand at stake in Iowa, creating a 3/8 cent gas tax to fund water quality improvements does more reasonable and holding farmers accountable for the best management practices on their land would lend far greater rewards than this legislation.