



House of Representatives

STATE OF IOWA

STATE HOUSE

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

July 6, 1980

Legislative Council
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

This letter is to request that the Legislative Council establish an Interim Subcommittee on Hazardous Waste Disposal this legislative interim.

As a member of the House Energy Committee, I attended a Conference on Hazardous Wastes held in Iowa City June 26-28, 1980. The conference was sponsored by the Center for Urban and Regional Research of the University of Iowa, and was funded with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funds. Participants included officials from EPA and Iowa's Department of Environmental Quality, Iowa legislators and staff, representatives of private industry and members of the public. Participants were made aware that the problem of hazardous waste disposal is reaching critical proportions in Iowa and the nation.

1. DEQ estimates that 35 million gallons of liquid and 600,000 tons of solid hazardous waste are generated each year in the state by various manufacturing and chemical companies. This amounts to 531 pounds of waste per person. Eighty-four percent of this waste receives no treatment prior to disposal. Most of the waste is disposed of at on-site facilities owned by private companies or shipped out of state. The amounts and types of wastes involved represent a major health and environmental hazard if disposed of improperly, as demonstrated by the Love Canal episode in upstate New York.

2. H.F. 719, passed by the 68th G.A. in 1979, places Iowa in compliance with the provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Beginning November 19, 1980, all hazardous wastes must be treated, transported and disposed of in accordance with strict new regulations. Disposal may only occur at a hazardous waste disposal facility approved by DEQ.

3. There are no approved hazardous waste disposal sites in Iowa, though some "special wastes" are currently legally disposed of at landfills. Some surrounding states have disposal facilities, but they are rapidly being filled to capacity. In Missouri, for

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example, 2 of 4 existing sites will be closed when new regulations go into effect in November, because they cannot meet the strict standards set by those new regulations. Disposal sites in Illinois, where some of Iowa's hazardous wastes are disposed of, are also filling to capacity. In other words, tons of wastes currently being landfilled in Iowa may have no place to be sent by 1981.

4. Portions of southern Iowa have been labelled by the Iowa Geological Survey as geologically suitable for location of a hazardous waste disposal site. Yet massive public opposition would certainly ensue if private industry or the state were at this time to attempt to locate a disposal facility in any given community. Current law (S.F. 205, sec. 59) allows the Executive Council to condemn and purchase land for a disposal site and lease the operation of a disposal facility to a private company, but such a forcible procedure would certainly evoke a loud public outcry.

5. I believe that it may be necessary to locate a disposal site in Iowa to ensure proper disposal of extremely toxic hazardous wastes generated in this state for which no disposal sites can be located elsewhere. But such a process should not begin until the public has been brought into the process of deciding whether sites are really needed and where they should be located. A major public education and awareness program must be launched, starting at the Legislative level, in order to disseminate information on the possible need for disposal sites in Iowa.

6. All segments of society involved in the hazardous waste problem, and particularly the industries that generate hazardous waste to begin with (as part of the economic process which provides millions of jobs and products to Americans), must be involved in discussion of this issue if it is to be dealt with in a way that ensures long-term public health and environmental stability in our state. Without disposal sites, significant industries in our state may have to cease operations.

For these reasons, I urge the Council to appoint an Interim Subcommittee on Hazardous Waste Disposal, which would have the following mandate:

1. Collect information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality on the amounts and types of hazardous waste generated in Iowa, and on the progress being made in implementing rules to ensure the proper disposal of that waste under H.F. 719/Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976.

2. Collect testimony on the need for a hazardous waste disposal site in Iowa from the industries and agencies concerned.

3. Collect testimony on the suitability of various portions of Iowa for location of a hazardous waste disposal site, and on the validity of technology and practices used to ensure public safety and environmental protection at such sites.

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4. Disseminate information on the dangers of improper disposal of hazardous waste, the possible need for a disposal site in Iowa, and the possibility of safe treatment and disposal of hazardous waste at a facility in Iowa.

5. Involve private industry in the process of educating the public on the need for a site to handle hazardous waste generated by industry in providing the jobs and making the products that keep the U.S. and Iowa economies running.

6. Explore ways to reduce the amounts of hazardous waste generated.

My principal goal in requesting formation of such a Subcommittee is to make the public aware of the dangers involved in improper disposal of hazardous waste, and to make a Legislative and public determination as to whether it is in the interest of the people of Iowa to establish a hazardous waste disposal site in the state in order to protect public health and the environment.

Sincerely,



Carroll Perkins
State Representative
55th District

MEMBERSHIP OF 1980 INTERIM STUDIES
Recommended by Studies Committee

STUDY SUBJECT	COMMITTEE STRUCTURE	NO. OF MEMBERS	MTG. DAYS	MEMBERSHIP
1. County Home Rule (SJR 9)*	3 Senators 3 Representatives (Committees on County Government) 1 Legislative Council member 4 county officials 1 public member appointed by Governor	12	4	Senators: Briles Miller of Des Moines Nystrom Representatives: Danker, Binneboese, Branstad Clark Other members include Nolting, Dooley, Karns, Diwocky, and Burr
2. Court Study (SJR 13)*	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Senate Committee on Judiciary and House Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement)	10	4	Senators: DeKoster Coleman Hansen Kudart Scott Representatives: Shimanek Conlon Jesse Johnson Patchett
3. Property Tax (HF 2072, SCR 109, HCR 127)	4 Senators 4 Representatives (Committees on Ways and Means) 12 from congress-	21	4	Senators: Craft, Temp. Co-chair Readinger Rodgers Van Gilst

sional districts appointed by the Governor from lists submitted by chairs of Republican and Democratic parties in each congressional district
Lieutenant Governor presides

Representatives:
West, Temp. Co-chair
Cochran
Norland
Schnekloth

4. Prescription Drug Dispensing Practices (SF 2070)

3 Senators 12
3 Representatives 2
(Committees on Human Resources)
1 member of Board of Pharmacy Examiners
1 member of Board of Medical Examiners
1 member of Board of Dentistry Examiners
1 member of Board of Nursing Examiners
1 member of Board of Podiatry Examiners
1 member of Board of Veterinary Examiners

Senators:
Carney, Temp. Co-chair
Miller of Des Moines
Yenger
Representatives:
Kirkenslager, Temp. Co-chair
Lind
Lonergan

5. Grain Elevator and Grain Grading (HCR 114, SCR 136, SCR 141)

5 Senators 10
5 Representatives 2
(Committees on Agriculture and Commerce)

Senators:
Holden, Temp. Co-chair
Bergman
Goodwin
Priebe
Robinson
Representatives:
Renken, Temp. Co-chair
Davitt

6. Governor's Economy Committee Recommendations (HCR 131, SCR 114)	7 Senators 7 Representatives (Committees on State Government and Appropriations)	14	4	<p>Hinkhouse Millen Swearingen</p> <p>Senators: Nystrom, Temp. Co-chair Carr Drake Palmer Schwengels Slater Yenger</p> <p>Representatives: Crawford, Temp. Co-chair Anderson of Audubon Brandt Dieleman Groth Lageschulte Mullins</p>
7. Corrections Systems (HCR 136)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Judiciary and Human Resources and Social Services Appropriations Subcommittee)	10	2'	<p>Senators: Carr Miller of Cerro Gordo</p> <p>Representatives: Daggett, Temp. Co-chair Clark of Cerro Gordo Jochum McKean Spear</p>
8. Transportation Study (HCR 122, HCR 132, SCR 116, HCR 107, SCR 145, SCR 144)	7 Senators 7 Representatives (Committees on Transportation and Ways and Means and Transportation and Law Enforcement Appropriations Subcommittee)	14	3	<p>Senators: Drake, Temp. Co-chair Coleman Comito Goodwin Jensen Small Van Gilst</p> <p>Representatives: Egenes, Temp. Co-chair Bennett</p>

9. Franchise Agreements (SCR 124)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Commerce)	10	2	Hoffmann Jay Johnson of Linn Oxley Woods Senators: Holden, Temp. Co-chair Comito Gentleman Priebe Rush Representatives: Schroeder, Temp. Co-chair Chiodo Johnson of Linn Pope Rapp
10. Education Study (HCR 135, HCR 139, SCR 146, and legalization of home study programs)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Education)	10	3	Senators: Carney, Temp. Co-chair Brown Gratias Small Taylor Representatives: Stromer, Temp. Co-chair Connally Diemer Horn Menke
11. Iowa Coal and Hazardous Waste Disposal (SCR 133, SCR 143)	7 Senators 7 Representatives (Committees on Energy)	14	2	Senators: Ramsey, Temp. Co-chair Bisenius Briles Brown Gallagher Rodgers Waldstein Representatives: Van Maanen, Temp. Co-chair

Howell
Hullinger
Pellett
Pelton
Perkins
Ritsema

12. Legislative Policy on the Family (HCR 133)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Human Resources)	10	2	Senators: Gentleman, Temp. Co-chair Hulse Miller of Cerro Gordo Slater Yenger Representatives: Mullins, Temp. Co-chair Cusack Husak Krewson Poffenberger
13. Juvenile Justice (SCR 121)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Senate Committee on Judiciary and House Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement)	10	3	Senators: Murray, Temp. Co-chair Briles Coleman Ramsey Slater Representatives: Shimanek, Temp. Co-chair Arnould Clark of Cerro Gordo Conlon Lloyd-Jones
14. Workers' Compensation (SR 107)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Labor and Indus- trial Relations)	10	2	Senators: Taylor, Temp. Co-chair Carr Hulse Jensen Palmer Representatives: Crabb, Temp. Co-chair Connors

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15. Mandatory Spending Limits (SCR 135)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Ways and Means, Appropriations, and Appropriations Subcommittees)	10	3	Senators: Craft, Temp. Co-chair Hester Holden Hutchins Junkins Representatives: Renken, Temp. Co-chair Anderson of Jasper Maulsby Pavich Shull
16. Funeral Directors Study (SCR 129)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Senate Committee on State Govern- ment and House Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement)	10	2	Senators: Schwengels, Temp. Co-chair Bisenius Miller of Des Moines Miller of Marshall Rodgers Representatives: Anderson of Audubon, Temp. Co-chair Corey Holt Lonergan Welsh
17. Forestry Study	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on Natural Resources)	10	2	Senators: Tieden, Temp. Co-chair Gallagher Gratias Miller of Marshall Priebe Representatives: Larsen, Temp. Co-chair Hall Hummel O'Kane Tyrrell

18. Fair Play Subcommittee	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Committees on State Government and County Govern- ment)	10	2	Senators: Nystrom, Temp. Co-chair Brown Hutchins Murray Schwengels Representatives: Hansen of O'Brien, Temp. Co-chair Bina Halvorson of Webster Hoffmann Johnson of Woodbury
19. Alternative Sentencing and Victim Compensation (SR 110, HCR 125)	5 Senators 5 Representatives (Senate Committee on Judiciary and House Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement)	10	2	Senators: Ramsey, Temp. Co-chair Baugher Coleman DeKoster Rush Representatives: Ritsema, Temp. Co-chair Doyle Hansen of Delaware Pelton Welsh

* Studies previously approved by the Legislative Council