COMMITTEE MINUTES for
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Date: January 31, 2007 **Place:** Ola Babcock Miller Building - Room 300

Convened: 1/31/2007 9:45 AM **Recessed:** **Reconvened:** **Adjourned:** 1/31/2007 10:35 AM

Present: Senators Seng-CH, Schoenjahn-VC, Gaskill-RM, Houser
Representatives Kuhn-CH, Bailey-VC, De Boef-RM, Bell, Deyoe, Grassley, Mertz, Olson, D., Rasmussen

Absent: None

Excused: Senator Black

Sen. Seng called the meeting to order.

Attendance was taken. Senators Black was excused.

The minutes from the previous meeting, January 25, were approved as distributed.

Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey gave a presentation on the budget needs of the Department of Agriculture. He discussed the need for funding for various inspection programs, including, but not limited to, dairy, meat, feed, limestone, horse, dog and organic.

Sec. Northey also talked about the needs of the Environment First program. Sec. Northey also discussed the advances needed in testing biodiesel and the funding for a state-of-the-art testing lab in Fort Dodge.

Sec. Northey also went into detail about how the state can better identify uses for and then market co-products from renewable energy.

Also discussed was the need for additional funding for Soil Conservation Committees, the need for international marketing of our renewable energy products.

Sec. Northey fielded questions from the committee members.

Sen. Schoenjahn had a prior engagement and had to leave early. He was excused by Sen. Seng, chairman of the meeting.

Deb Kozel of the Fiscal Services Division, gave a brief overview of the Governor's budget recommendations.

Rep. Grassley moved the committee arise.

The committee adjourned.

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Senator Dr. Joe M. Seng

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Ben Humphrey, Committee Secretary