REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

April 16, 2003

The International Relations Committee of the Legislative Council met on April 16, 2003, in the Speakers Conference at the State Capitol. The Committee discussed the following and made the following recommendations:

- The Committee discussed Senate Concurrent Resolution 11 which urges Congress to act to remove trade, financial and travel restrictions relating to Cuba. The Committee determined that in light of the Governor's decision to not travel as part of a delegation to Cuba, the Governor's office should be contacted before the resolution would come before the Senate.
- The Committee discussed Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 which supports the United Nation's recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan.
- The Committee discussed Senate Concurrent Resolution 14 which urges congressional adoption of a free trade agreement between Taiwan and the United States.
- The Committee discussed the issue of educational videos being used to promote Iowa to international students and the accuracy of the videos in reflecting the state. The Committee determined that the federal government should be contacted to pursue this issue.
- The Committee discussed the procedure for legislators in requesting gifts for international trips during which they would represent Iowa in an official capacity. Chairperson Boettger and Vice Chairperson Jenkins advised that they would speak with leadership to facilitate this process.
- The Committee discussed ethics issues related to gifts obtained by legislators during international travel. It was noted that the House Ethics committee would be discussing this issue during the legislative interim.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Nancy Boettger Chairperson