

Resolution: Support Sustainable Development

Because sprawling development and poor land use decisions have resulted in the rapid loss of valuable farmland and destruction of natural habitats;

Because Iowa's existing urban areas and small towns contain an abundance of vacant lots, abandoned buildings, and brownfields; and redevelopment of those areas can build a healthy tax base, create jobs, and enhance community character;

Because of the rising threat of climate change, depleting fossil fuels, increasing greenhouse gas emissions generated from driving, and limited transportation funding;

Resolution:

We support action by the Iowa legislature to limit taxpayer subsidies for new growth on farmland and natural areas, action by the Iowa legislature to encourage development and redevelopment inside our cities and towns, smarter planning and infrastructure investment, and action by the Iowa legislature to encourage sustainable transportation choices and principles of sustainable development.

Resolution: Reform Tax Increment Financing Laws

Because Tax Increment Financing was initially an effective tool for urban renewal in slum and blighted areas but has expanded greatly in Iowa during the past two decades;

Because TIF was intended to increase economic development and enrich the local tax base, yet its principal effect, as used in many cities, is to shift taxes from business to residential taxpayers, or from one city's taxpayers to residents of neighboring towns and rural areas;

Because in some cases, TIF has been used to entice businesses to move from one city to another with no economic benefit to the region;

Because TIF has been used to subsidize development on Iowa's world-class farmland;

Because TIF takes money away from our public schools and costs to taxpayers have increased substantially. In fiscal year 2016, Iowa's General

Fund reimbursed schools \$55.5 million because of lost revenue relating to TIF districts (a 20% increase in the past 5 years alone). For FY 2016, 43 cities have more than 25% of their property valuation tied up in TIF, accounting for \$1.6 billion in TIF value, with one community leading the pack with over 70% of its property valuation tied up in TIF.

Resolution:

We support reforming TIF laws to better reflect the original intent of the legislation: urban revitalization. The definition of "blight" for urban renewal TIFs should be clarified to ensure that TIFs are in true need of funds for urban revitalization. TIF funding needs oversight and TIF districts need to observe sunset dates and be dissolved. Farmland should not constitute "slum and blight". Additionally, economic development and residential TIFs should be abolished.

Resolution Reform Eminent Domain

Because in recent years eminent domain has been abused and used for corporate profit and private benefit, rather than for public purpose and public benefit,

Because eminent domain has been use to take property away from its owners for purposes that do not benefit the public and can actually cause harm, such as crude oil pipelines,

Resolution:

We support revising and strengthening eminent domain laws to strictly prohibit the use of eminent domain for corporate gain. We support prohibiting the use for any project that has a high chance to do more harm to property owners, the environment, our air, water, soil and communities and contribute to climate change, such as crude oil pipelines, urban sprawl and prohibit the use for any project that does not have clear, permanent long term benefits for lowans, and cannot show a compelling need for the project.