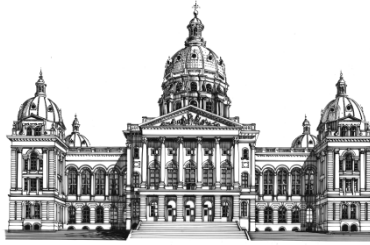


RITA HART
STATE SENATOR
Forty-ninth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

—
HOME ADDRESS
2764 – 130th Ave
Wheatland, IA 52777
C: (563) 210-1252
rita.hart@legis.iowa.gov
www.ritahart.org



The Senate
State of Iowa
Eighty-seventh General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

COMMITTEES
Agriculture
Appropriations
Education
Natural Resources & Environment

Agriculture & Natural Resources
Appropriations Subcommittee,
Ranking Member

August 1, 2017

Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor
State Capitol
Des Moines IA 50319

Dear Governor Reynolds:

It was an honor to attend your swearing-in at the Capitol and to hear your inaugural speech. I was pleased to hear you say that you intend to work with all legislators on key priorities during the 2018 session.

Extraordinary, bipartisan efforts need to be taken during the 2018 session to support efforts that will result in enough highly skilled workers in our small towns and rural communities to meet existing business demands throughout the state as well as create new business opportunity.

Small businesses, small manufacturers and other employers in our small towns and rural areas need more help to maintain and create jobs. We need to reinvest in rural Iowa and small towns by:

- Providing access to reliable high-speed Internet for all Iowans and small businesses.
- Ensuring safe, affordable housing for Iowa families.
- Enhancing cultural and community attractions.
- Encouraging a regional approach to economic development that supports rural revitalization.

As former chair of the Senate's Economic Growth Committee, I appreciate your willingness to focus on workforce training initiatives for Iowans. Let's work off what we have already done in

a bipartisan manner. Under Senate Democratic leadership with the former Governor and Republican House, we:

- Kept tuition down at our state universities and community colleges.
- Created and expanded worker training efforts, including the Kibbie Grant Program, GAP Tuition Assistance Program, Pathways for Academic Career & Employment Program, and Iowa Apprentice Act.
- Provided funding for adult literacy.

Like many Iowans, Senate Democrats remain concerned about funding cuts to Iowa universities and community colleges that were approved during the 2017 session. Those cuts have a negative impact at a time when we need to invest more in Iowa's current and future workforce training.

Thank you for meeting with me recently to talk about a priority project that we both share: Finding a new use for the former Mt. St. Clare/Ashford University campus in Clinton. This facility could become a regional hub for training tomorrow's skilled workers for all of Iowa, but particularly for Iowa's small towns and rural areas.

You and I agree that exciting educational and economic development opportunities for local students, employers and workers, and for the entire state of Iowa, are more than possible if everyone comes together on this important project.

I look forward to working with you on all of these issues that are vital to Iowa's success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rita R. Hart".

Rita Hart
Senator