Scott County Board of Health
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Position Statement on the Iowa Natural Resource Trust Fund

The Scott County Board of Health supports funding the Iowa Natural Resource Trust Fund because protecting Iowa's natural resources is an important part of protecting the health and well-being of Scott County communities.

Clean water, healthy soil, natural spaces, and access to parks and outdoor recreation all contribute to healthy communities. These resources support physical health, mental well-being, quality of life, and the resilience of communities for generations to come.

The Board recognizes that:

- **Clean water is essential to health.** Protecting Iowa's rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater helps ensure that communities have access to clean water for drinking, recreation, and everyday life.
- **Healthy land and natural spaces protect communities.** Wetlands, forests, prairies, and other natural areas help manage flooding, protect water quality, support wildlife, and preserve the natural resources on which Iowans depend.
- **Healthy environments support healthy people.** Access to parks, trails, and outdoor recreation provides opportunities for physical activity, connection with nature, and improved mental well-being. These opportunities should be available to people of all ages and backgrounds.
- **Protecting Iowa's natural resources is an investment in the future.** Clean water, productive agricultural soils, and thriving wildlife habitats contribute to the health, prosperity, and quality of life of current and future generations.
- **The Iowa Natural Resource Trust Fund provides an important opportunity to invest in these priorities.** Dedicated funding can support projects that improve water quality, protect natural areas, enhance flood protection, preserve wildlife habitat, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation across Iowa.

The Scott County Board of Health believes that public health is more than preventing illness. It also means creating and protecting the conditions that allow individuals, families, and communities to thrive. A healthy environment is a foundation for a healthy population.

Therefore, the Scott County Board of Health supports the passage of the 3/8-cent sales tax to fund Iowa's Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust and supports retaining the integrity of the funding formula established in the Iowa Constitution. The Board considers this an important investment in Iowa's natural resources, public health, and the well-being of Iowans today and for generations to come.

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