



REPRESENTATIVE CINDY GOLDING
IOWA HOUSE DISTRICT 83

UNDER THE GOLDEN DOME:

This Week at the Capitol:

**** (See below for special election and forum information) ****

Friends,

Several folks have asked about the “divisive, combative environment” in politics today. While there are several issues that are challenging, the environment in the Chamber is cordial and even friendly.

Most of the bills that come to the floor of the House pass with bipartisan support. Much of the legislation “tweaks” current Code to align with new technology or federal regulations.

Here are some examples:

HF200/SF153	Special Permits for Over-Sized Loads	passed 95-0
HF159	Defense Used to Justify Violent Crime	passed 93-1
HF143	Ransomware	passed 97-1
HF142	Veterans Trust Fund	passed 99-0

The challenge for all of us comes from misinformation or partial information pushed by various organizations with competing agendas. – Cindy

State Government

Pro ESG Company Loses over \$100 Billion after Fraud Allegations

ESG investing strategies have become a favorite talking point in the news lately. ESG is a method of scoring companies based on Environmental, Social, and Governance policies. Under the Biden administration the focus on these scores in the private sector has given larger influence to companies based on how “green” or “diverse” a company is and not their financial performance.

Adani Group’s status as “sustainable” in these funds was supposed to protect investors’ money. However, the Adani Group has faced several allegations of misconduct, fraud, and tax evasion over the years. This resulted in the group and all of its companies being removed from investment funds, Credit Suisse and Citigroup have stopped accepting bonds of Adani Group companies as collateral, and the S&P Dow Jones Indices has removed Adani Enterprises from its sustainability index. They have now lost over \$100 Billion dollars of investor funds.

House Republicans remain committed to protecting the Iowa pension systems from decision making and policies that are not in the best financial interest of our employees and retirees. The State of Iowa needs to ensure that managers of public funds and our employee pensions are only considering the real financial interest of the funds and not ESG ratings.

Veterans Affairs

Veteran Code Modernization Advances

This week, the Iowa House passed House File 259 unanimously.

This bill modernizes the Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) code by updating the definition of veteran, it adds requirements for the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and county VSOs to ensure VSOs are adequately trained to assist veterans. This bill also updates the membership of the county commissions of veteran's affairs, and updates who pays for the funeral expenses of a deceased veteran.

It was announced at the House Veterans Affairs Committee that \$200 million more veterans' benefits are coming in to the state of Iowa than the previous years. The legislature wants to ensure that Iowa veterans are receiving all benefits they need, and Iowa's VSOs are on the front line working with the veterans to make that happen.



Julie Baumler from Linn County Extension Services.



School Board Member, Whitney McIntosh.



Kim Junker sharing information about the CO2 pipeline.



Meeting former Congressman Mike Rogers with Senator Bouselot, and Representative Kniff McCulla.

Special Election

College Community School District and Springville Community School District

Deadlines are coming up for the special elections being held on March 7. This coming Monday, February 20, is the last day to pre-register to vote as well as the last chance to request an absentee ballot to be mailed. Once you receive and mark your ballot, mail it so that it is in your county auditor's office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Alternatively, you can vote absentee in person at your county auditor's office through March 6.

Forum

Details:

Topic: CO2 pipeline and eminent domain

Where: Ely Legion Hall, 1545 Main St, Ely, Iowa

When: Saturday, Feb 18th

Time: 10:00am

Legislators Invited:

Rep Cindy Golding, (confirmed)

Rep Tom Gerhold (confirmed)

Rep Brad Sherman (confirmed)

Rep. Elinor Levin (confirmed)

All Senators invited but had prior commitments.