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filed: August 19, 2022 • Iowa

Some landowners continue to ask county for larger setbacks for wind turbines

| ***Credit:*** Caitlin Yamada | Sioux City Journal | siouxcityjournal.com ~~

SIOUX CITY – Opponents and supporters of a potential new residence setback distance for commercial wind farms packed the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors meeting for the second week in a row.

The supervisors approved the second reading of an amendment for the commercial wind energy ordinance in a 3-to-2 vote Tuesday. The ordinance revision would increase the distance between wind turbines and residents from the current 1,250 feet to 2,500 feet.

Matthew Ung, Rocky De Witt and Jeremy Taylor voted for the ordinance while Justin Wright and Keith Radig opposed it.

Nearly 80 people turned out for Tuesday's meeting.

The ordinance was previously approved in July 2021 with a 1,250 foot setback. At the time, there was a small group of individuals who asked for the setback distances to be increased even further.

The topic has come back after the supervisors received numerous comments from citizens, some citing a developing MidAmerican Energy project looking at where wind turbines can be built in the county. Sixty landowners are currently participating in the project, said Adam Jablonski, a vice-president of resource development at MidAmerican.

Many of the opponents of wind turbines who spoke on Tuesday had similar comments to those attending a previous meeting. Those comments and concerns voiced were:

— A wildly shared opinion that turbines are noisy and would interrupt the quality of life of those who reside in the vicinity;

— A belief that turbines are visually displeasing and would alter the aesthetics of the county's landscape and the Loess

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Hills;

— Anecdotes of potential environment issues such as turbine blades have been known to kill birds – including bald eagles – and ice off the blades or broken rotor fragments can injure livestock, property or people;

— Concerns that the turbines will decrease property values;

— Beliefs that wind turbine studies and their impacts are biased and inaccurate;

— A dislike of the blinking red light at the top of the turbines for aircraft pilots, saying it is too bright and disrupting and;

— A belief that the instillation and decommission of these turbines will negatively impact the surrounding farmland.

The supervisors asked for a show of hands of who would be in support of the amended ordinance. Most of the attendees showed support, with around six people saying they support the current setbacks.

Only a few at the meeting said the 1,250 foot setback is sufficient. Those who spoke at the Aug. 9 meeting in favor of wind turbines said turbines generate less carbon emissions than the burning of coal or natural gas, an environmental benefit. They also said the noise issues are exaggerated and a such an ordinance would threaten the rights of property owners who want to grant easements for turbines.

Previously, a petition of 720 signatures in favor of the increased setbacks was presented. Another 110 signatures were submitted Tuesday.

MidAmerican Energy representatives spoke at the meeting, addressing turbine opponents' concerns regarding the noise of the turbines, shadows of the turbines, the property values and the red blinking light.

MidAmerican's William Dougherty said research done by the University of Iowa Public Health said noise emitted by turbines has no impact on public health. He said the company is also exploring aircraft-safety options for wind turbines that don't involve constant red lights blinking at night.

Previously, MidAmerican said a 2,500-foot setback would hobble the entire project, creating large off-limit areas of the county.

turbines
Idaho, Opinions:
Wind turbine proposal relies on incomplete information
Scotland:
Corsock wind farm rejected amid turbine height concerns
Ontario:
Nation Rise Wind Farm opponents address Roumeliotis, EOHU board
Australia:
Hawkesdale residents' bid to stop wind farm project denied by Victorian Court of Appeal
Germany:
Bavaria's state forests expect rush for wind power in the forest
Ireland:
Application to increase rotor size for Laois wind turbines
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Some landowners continue to ask county for larger setbacks for wind turbines
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Study warns of energy losses connected to larger offshore wind turbines
Scotland:
Patna: Plans submitted for new wind farm
Nova Scotia:
N.S. selects five wind projects to produce electricity from renewable sources

Jablonski repeated the company's suggestion of a more modest increase – 1,600 feet or three times the turbine height – would be more workable.

Taylor asked MidAmerican to enter all of the specification and safety data sheets of their proposed turbines into public record, as well as the information of liability contracts if someone was injured.

Ung said in his eight years he has never been contacted about an issue more than he has for this one. He said one issue he has is the turbines could restrict future housing development in a densely populated county.

Prior to the public discussion, County Engineer Mark Nahra suggested the board consider a setback distance of 3.5 times of the turbine height. He said with a turbine 591 feet tall, it would have to be 2,068 feet away from county residents.

The third and final reading will take place at the board of supervisors meeting Tuesday, Aug. 23.

Source: Caitlin Yamada | Sioux City Journal | siouxcityjournal.com

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- Madison County supervisors discuss possible health impacts of wind turbines
- Iowa County Board of Supervisors approves, adopts wind ordinance
- Wind turbine opponents, advocates present arguments to Woodbury County Supervisors
- Landowners voice opposition to wind turbines in Madison County

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Ohio Supreme Court weighs fate of area wind farm
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Winfield Township wind referendum scheduled, police investigation continues

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.

Follow this format for each person. DO NOT EXCEED FIVE PAGES.

NAME: Thorne, Peter S.

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (agency login): PTHORNE

POSITION TITLE: Professor and University of Iowa Distinguished Chair

EDUCATION/TRAINING *(Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.)*

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI	BS	09/1978	Chemical Engineering
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI	MS	05/1980	Biomedical Engineering
University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI	PHD	07/1984	Environmental Toxicology
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA	Postdoctoral Fellow	03/1987	Immunotoxicology

A. Personal Statement

My research experience has been amassed through over three decades of NIH-funded research in pulmonary toxicology, exposomics and environmental epidemiology. My work as an inhalation toxicologist requires a deep understanding of pulmonary toxicology, airway biology, innate immune responsiveness, lung dosimetry and aerosol physics. These skill sets and the tremendous capabilities of our EHSRC Human Toxicology and Exposomics Laboratory will interdigitate well with the proposed research. I am founding member of our NIEHS P30 Environmental Health Science Research Center. I served as Deputy Director 1995-2000, then Director 2000-2020 and since 2020 as Deputy Director. I have served as Director of the Pulmonary Toxicology Facility core for 27 years.

My portfolio of research has been funded by NIEHS, NIAID, NHLBI, FIC, CDC, DOD, NSF and HUD and totals over $65M. The findings of this research have been presented in over 290 peer-reviewed publications. I currently lead a research project within our P42 Iowa Superfund Research Program, a facility core within our P30 center, and am PI of a NIEHS-funded Nanotoxicology U01. As a mentor, I have served as PI and major advisor for 17 Post-doctoral fellows, 24 PhD students and 31 Masters students. I serve12 years as Head of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health and am currently the Director of the interdisciplinary Human Toxicology Program.

My experience as a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology; Chair of the NAS Committee on Toxicology and as Chair of the EPA Science Advisory Board have helped me gain insight into the translation of biomedical research to protect the health of the public. I have over 30 years of experience leading pulmonary toxicology research studies and collaborate extensively with investigators worldwide. I have created the infrastructure and equipment for lung exposure studies. Ongoing and recently completed projects that I would like to highlight include:

U01 ES027252-06 Thorne (PI) 09/01/16-08/31/22
NIH/NIEHS → University of Iowa
Biological Response Profiles of Selected Engineered Nanomaterials after Perinatal Exposure
This project will investigate the toxicity and biological response profiles of extensively characterized engineered nanomaterials. We will perform in vitro and in vivo perinatal developmental tox studies.

P30 ES005605-32 Thorne/Lehlmer (PI) 04/01/90-03/31/27
NIH/NIEHS → University of Iowa
Environmental Health Sciences Research Center (EHSRC)
The goal of the EHSRC is to promote research interactions among environmental health researchers at the UI, enhancing ongoing environmental health research and facilitating initiation of new collaborative and interdisciplinary environmental health research focused on rural populations.

5 P42 ES013661-16 Hornbuckle (PI) 04/01/05-03/31/25
NIH/NIEHS → University of Iowa
Superfund Research Program - Semi-volatile PCBs: Sources, Exposures, Toxicities
Project 3 – AESOP Study: Characterization of Exposures of Urban & Rural Cohorts to Airborne PCB's –
Thorne: Project Leader
The AESOP Study is a longitudinal cohort study of adolescent children and their mothers. The goal is to characterize exposures and adverse health effects of polychlorinated biphenyls.

U01 AI126614 Phipitanakul (PI) 07/20/16 – 06/30/23
NIH/NIAID → Boston Children's Hospital
Thorne: PI of Subaward
Controlling and Preventing Asthma Progression and Severity in Kids
This study seeks to prevention progression from allergic wheezing to asthma and will address the hypothesis that treatment of high-risk children with allergic sensitization and wheeze with omalizumab (anti-IgE) will alter disease progression as reflected by a reduced active diagnosis of asthma 2 yr after completion of therapy.

R01 ES030100-04 Gaffin (PI) 01/15/19 – 12/31/23
NIH/NIEHS → Boston Children's Hospital
Thorne: PI of Subaward K464600-CG
Indoor Air Quality and Respiratory Morbidity in School-aged Children with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia
In this study, Dr. Thorne performs exposure assessment for endotoxin, glucans and allergens using samples collected from the homes of study participants with bronchopulmonary dysplasia.

Citations:

1. **Thorne PS**. Environmental endotoxin exposure and asthma. Invited: Paradigms and Perspectives. Thorne PS. Environmental endotoxin exposure and asthma. ***J Allergy Clin Immunol***. 2021 Jul;148(1):61-63. doi: 10.1016/j.jaci.2021.05.004. Epub 2021 May 14. PMID: 34000345.
2. Lynch TJ, Anderson PJ, Rotti PG, Tyler SR, Crooke AK, Choi SH, Montoro DT, Silverman CL, Shahin W, Zhao R, Jensen-Cody CW, Adamcakova-Dodd A, Evans TIA, Xie W, Zhang Y, Mou H, Herring BP, **Thorne PS**, Rajagopal J, Yeaman C, Parekh KR, Engelhardt JF. Submucosal Gland Myoepithelial Cells Are Reserve Stem Cells That Can Regenerate Mouse Tracheal Epithelium. ***Cell Stem Cell***. 2018 May 3;22(5):653-667.e5. doi: 10.1016/j.stem.2018.03.017. Epub 2018 Apr 12. PMCID: PMC5935589
3. Stein MM, Hrusch CL, Gozdz J, Igartua C, Pivniouk V, Murray SE, Ledford JG, Marques dos Santos M, Anderson RL, Metwali N, Neilson JW, Maier RM, Gilbert JA, Holbreich M, **Thorne PS**, Martinez FD, von Mutius E, Vercelli D, Ober C, Sperling AI. Innate Immunity and Asthma Risk in Amish and Hutterite Farm Children. ***N Engl J Med***. 2016 Aug 4;375(5):411-21. PMCID: PMC5137793
4. Trompette A, Divanovic S, Visintin A, Blanchard C, Hegde RS, Madan R, **Thorne PS**, Wills-Karp M, Gioannini TL, Weiss JP, Karp CL. Allergenicity resulting from functional mimicry of a Toll-like receptor complex protein. ***Nature***. 2009 Jan 29;457(7229):585-8. PMCID: PMC2843411

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

Positions and Employment

2022 - present	University of Iowa Distinguished Chair, Iowa City, IA
2020 - present	Director, Human Toxicology Program, Iowa City, IA
2020 - present	Deputy Director, Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, Iowa City, IA
2009 - 2022	Head, UI Department of Occupational & Environmental Health, Iowa City, IA
2007 - 2007	Visiting Professor, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark
2006 - 2007	Visiting Professor, Utrecht University, Utrecht, The Netherlands
2000 - 2020	Director, Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, Iowa City, IA
1999 - present	Professor of Toxicology, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1998 - 1998	Visiting Professor, Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands
1997 - 1999	Professor of Toxicology, College of Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1997 - present	Professor of Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering (Secondary), Iowa City, IA
1993 - 2000	Deputy Director, Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, Iowa City, IA
1993 - present	Director, U.I. Pulmonary Toxicology Facility, Iowa City, IA

1992 - 1997	Associate Professor, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1988 - 1992	Assistant Professor, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
1987 - 1988	Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
1984 - 1987	Faculty Research Associate, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
1981 - 1984	Research Assistant, Environ. Toxicology Program, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1980 - 1981	Teaching Assistant, Dept. Chemical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1978 - 1980	Research Assistant, Veterinary Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1976 - 1977	Engineering Intern, Dept. Mechanical Engineering, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI

Scientific Appointments

2021-present	Chair, Committee on Toxicology, National Academy of Sciences
2021-present	Science Advisory Board, U.S. EPA, member
2019-present	Health Effects Institute, Energy Research Board, member
2017-present	Committee on Toxicology, National Academy of Sciences, member
2017-present	Environmental Policy Committee, American Thoracic Society, member
2013-2020	Board on Environmental Studies & Toxicology, National Academy of Sciences, member
2011-2017	Chair, Science Advisory Board, U.S. EPA, member 2011-17, chair 2015-17
2003-2007	National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council, NIEHS, member
2001-2001	Chair, Occupational Health Study Section, CSR NIOSH
2000-2007	Science Advisory Panel, Canadian Animal and Human Health Study of Oil and Gas Drilling
2000-2002	Chair, Occupational Health Specialty Section, Society of Toxicology
1999-2002	Occupational Health Study Section, CSR NIOSH, member
1997-1998	Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods, NIH-EPA-FDA, member
1993-present	Ad Hoc review groups for NIH, DOD, NIOSH, EPA, member

Honors

2022	Named to UI Distinguished Chair, University of Iowa
2018	Board of Regents Award for Faculty Excellence, State of Iowa
2017	Scholar of the Year Award, University of Iowa
2013	Distinguished Faculty Award & Lecture, University of Iowa College of Public Health
2010	Inductee, Delta Omega Honorary Public Health Society
2010	John Doull Award, Society of Toxicology, Central States Chapter
2009	Faculty Research Award, University of Iowa College of Public Health
2004	Thomas Bedford Memorial Prize, British Occupational Hygiene Society
2003	Moira J. Whitehead Memorial Lecturer, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, UPMC
1982-1984	NIEHS National Research Service Award Trainee, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1981-1982	Vilas Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1978	Graduate with Honors, College of Engineering, University of Wisconsin,, Madison, WI

C. Contributions to Science

1. Through *in vivo* inhalation toxicology studies and advanced *in vitro* methods, my research has elucidated adverse outcome pathways for engineered nanomaterials.
   a. Parizek NJ, Steines BR, Haque E, Altmaier R, Adamcakova-Dodd A, O'Shaughnessy PT, **Thorne PS***. Acute in vivo pulmonary toxicity assessment of occupationally relevant particulate matter from a cellulose nanofiber board. ***NanoImpact*** 2020 Jan; 17:100210. PMCID: PMC7504912
   b. Areecheewakul S, Adamcakova-Dodd A, Givens BE, Steines BR, Wang Y, Meyerholz DK, Parizek NJ, Altmaier R, Haque E, O'Shaughnessy PT, Salem AK, **Thorne PS***. Toxicity assessment of metal oxide nanomaterials using *in vitro* screening and murine acute inhalation studies. ***NanoImpact.*** 2020 Apr;18:100214. PMCID: PMC7504913

c. Wang Y, Adamcakova-Dodd A, Steines BR, Jing X, Salem AK, **Thorne PS***. Comparison of in vitro toxicity of aerosolized engineered nanomaterials using air-liquid interface mono-culture and co-culture models. ***NanoImpact***. 2020 Apr; 18:100215. PMCID: PMC7462419

d. Adamcakova-Dodd A, Monick MM, Powers LS, Gibson-Corley KN, **Thorne PS***. Effects of prenatal inhalation exposure to copper nanoparticles on murine dams and offspring. ***Part Fibre Toxicol***. 2015 Oct 6;12:30. PMCID: PMC4594905

2. Work from my laboratory has shown that inhalation of lower-chlorinated polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) leads to rapid uptake, distribution and metabolism to OH-PCBs and PCB sulfates with associated immunotoxicity and endocrine disruption.

   a. Wang H, Adamcakova-Dodd A, Gosse L, Flor S, Lehmler HJ, Hornbuckle KC, **Thorne PS*.** Comprehensive subchronic inhalation toxicity assessment of an indoor school air mixture of PCBs. **Environ Sci Tech**. 2020 Dec 15:54(24):15976-15985. PMCID: PMC7879961.

   b. Wang H, Adamcakova-Dodd A, Lehmler H-J, Hornbuckle KC, **Thorne PS*.** Toxicity assessment of 91-day repeated inhalation exposure to an indoor school air mixture of PCBs. **Environ Sci Technol**, Available online 7 January 2022, https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.1c05084.

   c. Hu X, Adamcakova-Dodd A, **Thorne PS***. The fate of inhaled (14)C-labeled PCB11 and its metabolites in vivo. ***Environ Int***. 2014 Feb;63:92-100. PMCID: PMC3950335.

   d. Hu X, Adamcakova-Dodd A, Lehmler HJ, Gibson-Corley KN, **Thorne PS***. Toxicity evaluation of exposure to an atmospheric mixture of polychlorinated biphenyls by nose-only and whole-body inhalation regimens. ***Environ Sci Technol***. 2015 Sep 8. [Epub ahead of print]. PMC4711378

3. The AESOP Study, a longitudinal cohort study of exposures to PCBs and lead (Pb) among adolescent children and their mothers, has shown that much of the exposure to PCBs comes via inhalation and that indoor exposures in schools are particularly high. There is also substantial exposure to non-legacy, non-Aroclor PCBs. We have also documented longitudinal Pb profiles in this EJ community (East Chicago, IN)

   a. Haque E, **Thorne PS***, Nghiem A, Yip C, Bostick B. Lead (Pb) concentrations and speciation in residential soils from an urban community impacted by multiple legacy sources., J Hazard. Mater. 2021 Aug 15; 416:125886. doi: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2021.125886. Epub 2021 Apr 15. PMID: 34492824.

   b. Marek RF, **Thorne PS***, Herkert NJ, Awad AM, Hornbuckle KC. Airborne PCBs and OH-PCBs Inside and Outside Urban and Rural U.S. Schools. ***Environ Sci Techno***l. 2017 Jul 18;51(14):7853-7860. PMCID: PMC5777175.

   c. Ampleman MD, Martinez A, DeWall J, Rawn DF, Hornbuckle KC, **Thorne PS***. Inhalation and dietary exposure to PCBs in urban and rural cohorts via congener-specific measurements. ***Environ Sci Technol***. 2015 Jan 20;49(2):1156-64. PMCID: PMC4303332.

   d. Koh WX, Hornbuckle KC, **Thorne PS***. Human Serum from Urban and Rural Adolescents and Their Mothers Shows Exposure to Polychlorinated Biphenyls Not Found in Commercial Mixtures. Environ Sci Technol. ***Environ Sci Technol***. 2015 July 7; 49(13): 8105–8112. Published online 2015 June 18. PMCID: PMC4774248

4. My research has helped elucidate the role of inhaled endotoxin in lung inflammation, asthma and environmental and occupational lung and cardiac diseases.

   a. Trompette A, Divanovic S, Visintin A, Blanchard C, Hegde RS, Madan R, **Thorne PS**, Wills-Karp M, Gioannini TL, Weiss JP, Karp CL. Allergenicity resulting from functional mimicry of a Toll-like receptor complex protein. ***Nature***. 2009 Jan 29;457(7229):585-8. PMCID: PMC2843411.

   b. **Thorne PS***, Cohn RD, Mav D, Arbes SJ, Zeldin DC. Predictors of endotoxin levels in U.S. housing. ***Environ Health Perspect***. 2009 May;117(5):763-71. PMCID: PMC2685839.

   c. Salo PM, Wilkerson J, Rose KM, Cohn RD, Calatroni A, Mitchell HE, Sever ML, Gergen PJ, **Thorne PS**, Zeldin DC. Bedroom allergen exposures in US households. J Allergy Clin Immunol. ***J Allergy Clin Immunol***. 2018 May;141(5):1870-1879.e14. PMCID: PMC5938098.

   d. Mendy A, Wilkerson J, Salo PM, Cohn RD, Zeldin DC, **Thorne PS***. Exposure and Sensitization to Pets Modify Endotoxin Association with Asthma and Wheeze. ***J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.*** 2018 Apr 21. pii: S2213-2198(18)30280-0. PMCID: PMC5899028.

5. My group has developed and optimized methodology for quantitative exposure assessment for endotoxin, glucans and allergens.

   a. **Thorne PS***, Perry SS, Saito R, O'Shaughnessy PT, Mehaffy J, Metwali N, Keefe T, Donham KJ, Reynolds SJ. Evaluation of the Limulus amebocyte lysate and recombinant factor C assays for assessment of airborne endotoxin. ***Appl Environ Microbiol***. 2010 Aug;76(15):4988-95. PMCID: PMC2916455.

   b. Kilburg-Basnyat B, Metwali N, **Thorne PS***. Effect of deployment time on endotoxin and allergen exposure assessment using electrostatic dust collectors. ***Ann Occup Hyg***. 2015 Jan;59(1):104-15. PMCID: PMC4303768.

   c. Hoppe Parr KA, Hađina S, Kilburg-Basnyat B, Wang Y, Chavez D, **Thorne PS**, Weiss JP. Modification of sample processing for the Limulus amebocyte lysate assay enhances detection of inflammogenic endotoxin in intact bacteria and organic dust. ***Innate Immun***. 2017 Apr;23(3):307-318. Epub 2017 Jan 1. PMCID: PMC5814115

   d. Kilburg-Basnyat B, Peters TM, Perry SS, **Thorne PS***. Electrostatic dust collectors compared to inhalable samplers for measuring endotoxin concentrations in farm homes. ***Indoor Air***. 2015 Aug 22. [Epub ahead of print] PMCID: PMC4850132

A full list of my published work and publications emanating from my grants as PI are available at:

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/1fET8FSy-d9Qa/bibliography/45504163/public/

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Kerri Johannsen

ENERGY PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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Email: johannsen@iaenvironment.org

Kerri Johannsen is Energy Program Director with the Iowa Environmental Council. She has over a decade of experience in energy policy, most recently serving as the Council's Manager of Government Affairs, leading state-level legislative strategy. She previously developed energy policy with the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, administered the Iowa Power Fund for innovative clean energy projects, and worked as an analyst and Legislative Liaison with the Iowa Utilities Board before joining the Council in 2016. Johannsen has a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College and a Master's in Public Policy from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.

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New Iowa Law Keeps Solar Growing

On March 12, 2020, Governor Reynolds signed SF 583 – a bill IEC and our partners had dubbed the "Sunshine Tax" that failed a year earlier. In the course of that year, Senate File 583 evolved into something that is rarely achieved: legislation with unanimous support from both political parties in both houses of the legislature.

2018 Legislative Session Delivers Wins and Losses

The 2018 Legislative Session was a year of highs and lows, with hard-fought battles over protection of Iowa's water and land and clean energy leadership. The Council did not win every round, but with our supporters we changed the direction of the conversation on many issues.

Value of Iowa's Water, Land and Clean Energy Economy Challenged in 2017 Legislative Session

The session is over and the consequences are real, but the Council's policy, advocacy and regulatory work outside of Session will only improve our position going into 2018.

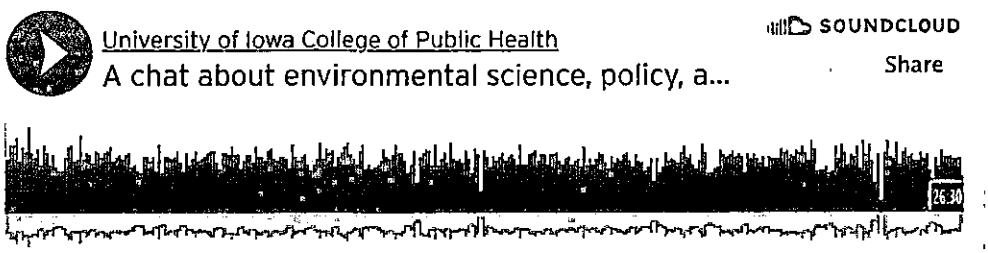
Governor's Recommended Budget Cuts Could Mean Lackluster Efforts for Water Quality

Governor Branstad unveiled his budget recommendations for the remainder of fiscal year 17 and for fiscal years 18 and 19. Unfortunately, his recommendations will not lead to the aggressive action required to address our water quality problems.

Announcing Our 2017 Legislative Priorities

From the Front Row: Environmental science, policy, and public health with David Osterberg

Published on March 29, 2022



Ben Sindt:

Hello, everyone. Welcome back to From the Front Row, brought to you by the University of Iowa College of Public Health. My name is Ben Sindt and I'm joined today by Radha Velamuri. If this is your first time with us, welcome. We're a student-run podcast that talks about major issues in public health and how they are relevant to anyone both in and out of the field of public health.

Today, we'll be chatting with David Osterberg about his work in environmental health and public policy. Mr. Osterberg used to serve as a Representative in the Iowa House of Representatives and is currently an Emeritus Professor here at the University of Iowa. He is also the Founder and past Executive Director of the Iowa Policy Project, which is now known as the Common Good Iowa, which works on people-centered policy.

Radha Velamuri:

Welcome to the podcast, Mr. Osterberg. Can you give us an overview of how the environment, health policy, and all of these factors work together and maybe just give a brief overview of yourself?

David Osterberg:

Okay. Well, I was at the university for, I think, 17 years. They hired me to do public policy and that's because I'd been a state legislator in the past, I'd worked for the Department of Natural Resources, and starting a not-for-profit at the same time. This is back in 2001. And so, I always believe that work in a not-for-profit area and research going on at a place like the University of Iowa can be combined and it makes both of them better. In fact, I taught a class for a while, along with Cori Peek-Asa, and she and I put together a class that was predicated on the fact that researchers have information that policy makers want to have and there's a great interconnection.

David Osterberg:

So, while I was at the University of Iowa, I was also a director of a not-for-profit. So I had two half-time jobs and always trying to make sure that I kept them separate. I always figured that some Republican Senator was going to come in and claim that I was misusing my two positions. So, since 2001, I know how every 15 minutes of my work time has gone to make sure that there

was no overlap.

Ben Sindt:

If you can give us a brief overview of what type of environmental policy goals right now you're trying to work towards, or what's big picture things that are hot button right now.

David Osterberg:

The thing I just wrote yesterday was on taxes. Now, that may seem really far from public health. Of course, it isn't because without taxes, we don't have a Department of Public Health in the state of Iowa. There's been a move to try to do more outdoor recreation and water quality improvement in the state. Periodically, they tie this to a tax bill. And so, that's why taxes and outdoor recreation are tied together. What I tried to explain is what a terrible bill it is and why it doesn't really do very much for outdoor recreation. The fact that environmentalists might be supporting it just helps them pass a very terrible bill. So, public policy.

Radha Velamuri:

Can you talk a little bit more about how policy works, how you come up with these ideas? I mean, you've served in the Iowa House. How does policy making in the state directly affect our environment?

David Osterberg:

That's right. You got to get the votes. So you have to have support on different issues. Here's another example. This is something I did for quite a while, while I was at both of these into institutions, what was called then the Iowa Policy Project and our department in College Public Health at the University of Iowa. I did a bunch of tours. The first one, 2002, I kind of used a grant that I had at the Iowa Policy Project from Iowa Foundation. They just told me, "Go out and try

Iowa Policy Project from Joyce Foundation. They just told me, "Go out and try to make people aware of climate change." So I took a bunch of my friends and we went to Europe and I paid for it. I paid their way. We had to stay in youth hostels because there wasn't that much money. But we then rode around Europe, starting in Amsterdam and going up through Germany, up to the top of Denmark. We did that on bicycles and one of the bicycles was pulling a trailer on which was a giant solar panel.

David Osterberg:

The idea was climate change. What can you do about climate change? At the time, Germany was really pushing very hard on wind power in 2002. This is kind of when Iowa had just started its wind power development at the time. But we were doing it for the publicity. Every Wednesday morning for seven minutes, I was at NPR and lots of stuff in newspapers. But the point was climate change is real, renewable energy is a solution, and if you do it right, farmers make a lot of money because they get having those wind farms on their land, they get paid like $8,000 per turbine per year. There's real money in this for land owners. Iowa can do this. We just kept pushing that idea. In about every two years, we'd go and do another one. Many of them were in the United States.

David Osterberg:

Tom Cook, another professor in my department, DHSRC ... I mean, sorry, the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Tom went on a bunch of these and we'd always do the same kind of thing. We'd go to places where people were doing something good about the environment, generally about climate change. We'd then bring publicity to that organization, whatever they were doing. But because this was a tour that we were making around the Midwest or in Slovenia or someplace like that, we were getting a lot of press on that issue.