Dear LEGISLATOR,

I am writing to you as a volunteer of/donor to/grant recipient of/board member of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa and my local affiliate foundation, they XXX Community Foundation to make you aware of the impact of the County Endowment Fund Program and the Endow Iowa tax credit program.

Through the County Endowment Fund Program (CEFP), 0.8% of the state’s commercial gaming tax revenue is distributed to community foundations in the 84 counties that do not hold a state-issued gaming license. The community foundations then annually grant 75% of those funds to nonprofits and charitable projects within their counties and place the remaining 25% of funds in a permanent endowment fund, which is intended to attract other donations and provide a source of permanent funding for charitable projects within the county – forever.

Complementary to this grantmaking, Endow Iowa tax credits help community foundations build local endowment funds to meet current and future community needs.

Due to the generosity of Iowans throughout the state, demand has outpaced available credits for several years, resulting in a long waitlist maintained by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). IEDA has recently communicated they do not believe they have the authority to oversee and administer tax credit waitlists so the waitlist process will be discontinued on July 1, 2023. Without legislative action, Endow Iowa will be suspended until the application is re-opened by IEDA.

To grow the County Endowment Fund Program and ensure the continuation of the Endow Iowa tax credit program, **please support** [**HF 710**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF710&ga=90) **(passed unanimously by the House of Representatives)** which will:

* Appropriate a one-time amount of $7 million to the Endow Iowa tax credit program to eliminate the waitlist within IEDA;
* Continue to appropriate $1.75 million to the Gambling Treatment Program;
* Appropriate $1 million to Endow Iowa, increasing the credit from $6 million to $7 million annually;
* Divide the remaining amount of sports gambling taxes between the 99 counties evenly for annual grantmaking purposes; and

OPTIONAL: INCLUDE YOUR PERSONAL STORY OF HOW THESE PROGRAMS IMPACT YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Attention to these priorities is vitally important to increase our capacity to make our communities more attractive places to work, live, raise a family, and retire. Please find more information attached. If you have any questions regarding HF 710, the Endow Iowa tax credit program, the County Endowment Fund Program, our community foundation, or the impact this would have, please Kaye Englin, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa at 319-243-1350 or kenglin@cfneia.org. She would be happy to coordinate a time to meet with you.

Thank you,