

Dear District 80 Supporter,

As you may know, I am a candidate for the Iowa House of Representatives Seat District 80. As noted in the Muscatine Journal, the decision by Lt. Governor Patty Judge and our Representative Nathan Reichert to skip the City of Muscatine in their damage review and assessment, was the “straw that broke the camels back”! When I walked the afflicted neighborhoods and spoke with those struck by this catastrophe, every person told me the same thing. They appreciated me coming, and stated I was the only elected official on any level from either political party to speak to them face to face. Some were upset and others enraged the Lt. Governor and Representative Reichert ignored them as their pain was somehow less than Fruitland or Grandview. This kind of conduct is unacceptable and not what Muscatine and District 80 is all about.

Our State Government is literally out of control. It will not remain healthy by taxing its citizens to death and then collecting their “Death Tax” but rather restructure the tax rates to encourage business growth and growing the tax base. Every single state around us (Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, So. Dakota, and Wisconsin) all have lower Corporate and Personal tax rates than Iowa. Why would anyone in their right mind want to move to Iowa and start a business or raise a family. The States insatiable hunger for our money in order to create a larger than needed government must be stopped. We must establish practical priorities and a “Common Sense Business Type Approach to State Government”. Only then will futuristic Companies want to move to Iowa and take advantage of our work ethic. Only then will a tax base relying on real goods and services exist rather than revenue based on gaming proceeds, tobacco tax, and user fees which are here today and gone tomorrow. My goals lead to stable sustained growth!

In this process we need to continue to strengthen our school system and accountability requirements. If this great nation is to remain, it is imperative our youth lead the world in math, science, and overall education. We are no longer a blue collar society, and our future lies in our ability to adapt and invent. This we have done and can continue to do by setting practical priorities. Wouldn't it my great to see Iowa leading the nation again in education?

Part of the problem is the inability of our representative to standup to state party officials and take a strong position for Muscatine and District 80. Sometimes what's good for the state may not be good for each district. Our representative should work for his constituents first.

All of you know I give 100% to the many community organizations I belong to. Those of you, who follow me during Muscatine City Council meetings, also know I fight for our Citizens. Because the State continues to minimize Muscatine's and District 80's available revenue streams, we need someone who will do the same thing on the state level. After consultation with the Mayor, City Council members and our City Administrator, I decided I could do more for Muscatine at the State House. We need someone who will do more than just “Talk the Talk”, but “Walk the Walk”. One thing I can absolutely

guarantee you, the Governor and entire State Congress will know Muscatine, where it is, what our needs are, and who represents them!

With the election cycle starting early due to the Presidential race, we are forced to do the same. Therefore I am writing this letter to encourage and ask for your support both moral and financial. I can use committee members, helpers, advice, and your prayers.

When I ran for City Council our financial needs were much less. With thousands of brochures, yard signs, billboards, radio and TV ads, this campaign will involve a much larger collection effort than before. State and regional officials have advised me we will need to raise a total of \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00, with a minimum of \$15,000.00 before years end.

Your contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or \$1,000 will help immensely in achieving our goals in allowing me to run for Iowa House Seat District 80. And in doing so, help elect a true servant of the people.

You may contact me by phone at 263-3307, or mail to:

Committee to Elect Robert E. Howard
P.O. Box 1251
Muscatine, Ia. 52761

Thank you for allowing me to serve you on Muscatine City Council, and I look forward to being your voice in Des Moines.

Sincerely,

Bob Howard