



# QUAD CITIES CHAMBER

Iowa Capitol Trip

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## Issue

Across Iowa, property taxes remain a major cost for residents and businesses. Iowans consistently rank property tax relief as a top priority, and The Tax Foundation ranks Iowa's property tax competitiveness at 33<sup>rd</sup> in the country, trailing fellow Midwestern states Missouri, Wisconsin, Kansas, South Dakota and Minnesota.

At the same time, local governments depend on property taxes to fund core services that support economic growth and quality of life. High growth communities like Bettendorf face rising service and infrastructure demands that far outpace 2% annual cost increases, and Quad Cities governments already operate with many shared and streamlined services, leaving little room for further cuts without impacting essential services.

## Request

### **Compromise on proposed property tax bills to produce the following results:**

- **Simplified tax structure** to provide long-term predictability for Iowans
- **Targeted relief** for seniors and people with fixed incomes
- **Improved transparency** measures for taxpayers
- **Protection for local government** capacity to provide essential services
- **Support for government efficiency** without penalizing growth

## Issue

Our communities are growing increasingly concerned about mental health issues—our downtowns and urban centers have noticed an increase in cases of people experiencing homelessness. In December 2025, the Scott County Mental Health Alliance released a “High Utilizer” report, tracking individuals frequently involved in mental health incidents who used expensive social services over a five-year period.

The high utilizer study found that 17 individuals cost our combined community services over \$7 million, or \$84,000 per person, per year. These expenses proved ineffective, with many of the 17 people cycling between homelessness, jail, the hospital and homelessness again.

While current services provide excellent short-term care, high utilizers need intensive, subacute care over a longer period than what is currently available. Senate File 2202 could provide answers to many of the issues with the subacute mental health system by:

- Eliminating the 10-day limit for subacute mental health care
- Allowing existing facilities to add beds
- Allowing new facilities to be built and for existing facilities to expand

## Request

**Support SF 2202**

## Issue

State supported workforce training has been a cornerstone of the Iowa Quad Cities' recent economic success. Between FY2020 and FY2025, these programs helped Eastern Iowa employers create more than 2,000 new jobs—strengthening existing companies, attracting new investment to the region, and ensuring businesses could hire and train workers when growth opportunities arose. Unfortunately, legislation has been introduced that would allow the 260E workforce training program to expire.

While we recognize the government's mandate to manage state resources carefully, workforce training investments streamlined through our community colleges deliver a strong return for Iowa, helping existing employers expand, attracting new businesses and supporting workers as they decide where to build their careers and families.

Allowing the 260E program to sunset without a suitable replacement risks undermining Iowa's competitiveness when workforce availability remains a major challenge facing employers statewide.

## Request

**Oppose eliminating the 260E program**

## Issue

For many years, the Quad Cities region has worked collaboratively with state and federal partners to advance passenger rail service between Chicago and Moline. This project is nearing realization and is expected to deliver significant economic development benefits across both the Iowa and Illinois Quad Cities. Furthermore, at the federal level, there is a clear and stated long-term priority to expand passenger rail beyond Moline, with potential future connections to Iowa City, Des Moines, Council Bluffs and Omaha.

Joining the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact (MIPRC) ensures that Iowa:

- Has a formal seat at the table as regional passenger rail plans are discussed
- Can advocate for Iowa's specific needs, priorities, and concerns
- Gains access to additional federal funding opportunities available through multistate rail collaboration
- Participates in regional coordination rather than reacting to decisions made by other states
- Is not obligated to fund or construct new rail service

## Request

**Pass legislation to join the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact**

## Issue

Growing reliable energy capacity in the years ahead will be critical to securing economic development opportunities for Iowa and the Quad Cities. A common concern about increased energy demand from manufacturing, data centers, electrification, and population shifts is the ability to grow our reliable energy capacity while maintaining an affordable environment for residents and businesses.

We appreciate legislative proposals such as those in the IEDA bill that initiate a load forecasting process. Proper load forecasting supports economic development by ensuring future energy will be available, reliable and priced competitively. This will also support taxpayers by ensuring rates are more stable over time and reducing the risk of blackouts.

## Request

**Support legislation initiating a thorough statewide load forecasting process**