



Board of Supervisors

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April 7, 2025

The Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Formal Objection to Senate File 75

Dear Governor Reynolds,

On behalf of the Johnson County Board of Supervisors, we write to express our opposition to Senate File 75 recently passed by the Iowa Legislature and currently pending your consideration.

This bill targets only three of Iowa's 99 counties, Johnson, Story, and Black Hawk, and strips them of their right to choose how their local governments are elected. The rationale is to strengthen rural representation. However, counties like Linn, Scott, and Polk have similar population sizes, urban-rural divides, and transient student or mobile populations. Yet they remain unaffected. This inconsistency is not just troubling, it is unjust. It undermines the foundational principle that all Iowans deserve equal treatment under the law. Selectively rewriting the rules for only three counties is not reform. It's targeted interference.

Iowa's Constitution provides for home rule, granting counties the right to manage their own affairs unless clearly preempted by uniform state law. Senate File 75 disregards this principle and imposes disparate treatment without applying a general standard.

These are not just university towns; they are communities with working families, farmers, small businesses, and long-standing traditions of civic participation. No matter how it is framed, this bill singles out counties that happen to elect local leaders who reflect the views of their diverse constituencies. That's not democracy in service to all, it's policymaking designed to produce different electoral outcomes.

As Governor, the expectation is clear: to uphold the Constitution, to reject discrimination in legislation, and to ensure governance is even-handed for all 99 counties, not just the politically convenient ones.

We urge you to veto Senate File 75 and prevent a precedent that fractures the trust between state and local government.

Sincerely,

Jon Green, Chair
V Fixmer-Oraiz, Vice Chair
Lisa Green-Douglass, Supervisor
Mandi Remington, Supervisor
Rod Sullivan, Supervisor
Johnson County Board of Supervisors