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Contact: Josie Klingaman (515) 419-1038

Republican Leaders Visit Flood-Damaged Areas

(DES MOINES)—House Republican Leader Christopher Rants (R-Sioux City) and Minority Whip Kraig Paulsen (R-Hiawatha) toured the flood-damaged towns of Cedar Rapids and Palo yesterday.

The leaders toured the area with Cedar Rapids City Councilman Chuck Wieneke and were shown firsthand the levees, damage to the Cedar Rapid's downtown area, and the destruction of thousands of homes.

“The pictures of the damaged area do not convey the extent of the devastation the people of Cedar Rapids and Palo are facing. I would encourage other lawmakers to see the destruction firsthand,” said Rants. “We know there are more towns across Iowa who are facing severe flood damage and we want to be prepared to help.”

Minority Whip Kraig Paulsen from nearby Hiawatha commented on the relief efforts that are underway.

“Iowans are doing what they do best, reaching out and helping one another. We're very thankful for all the efforts of the volunteers, locally elected officials, National Guard members, emergency management officials, first responders, road crews and those who have donated their time or money to assist our communities,” said Paulsen.

The lawmakers toured the area in preparation for the possibility of a special legislative session.

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