



IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE ERIK HELLAND
HOUSE DISTRICT #69

STATE CAPITOL
DES MOINES, IA 50319

PHONE: (515) 281-3221
EMAIL: ERIK.HELLAND@LEGIS.STATE.IA.US

Helland's Highlights

It is truly a pleasure for me to be able to serve you for another year in the Iowa House. The 2010 session began on Monday, January 11 and the first week has been filled with a flurry of action and movement of bills.

The 2010 Session is scheduled to last for roughly 80 days and is bound to be filled with many discussion and debates regarding the state budget, education, public safety and many other issues which can turn controversial quickly.

On Tuesday, January 12, Governor Culver delivered his third *Condition of the State* address to the people of Iowa.

Several statements in the speech made me pause and wonder about their accuracy. The Governor touted his balanced budget and stated "it has been balanced every single day" he has been Governor. Yet, we have had two significant across the board cuts during his tenure.

Another interesting quote "the budget today is 'smaller' than it was on the day I (Governor Culver) took office." The total budget in Fiscal Year 2007 was \$5.385 billion. Yet the Fiscal Year 2010 budget, even after the 10% across the board cut, is \$5.905.

The Governor then moved on to praise his I-Jobs program, which was started last year and is funded by bonds to be paid back with gambling revenues over the next twenty years. Governor Culver said the \$830 million program had started over 1,400 projects in all 99 counties. However, there are now 40,300 more unemployed Iowan's than in 2008.

I have promised you in the past that I will always vote to protect the taxpayer pocket book before the government pocket book; and I will pledge to do so again this year.

I look forward to serving you in the Legislature and welcome you to attend the Legislative Forums with Senator Larry Noble in the future. I will let you know of the dates in the upcoming columns. My email is erik.helland@legis.state.ia.us and phone is (515) 281-3221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Helland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Erik Helland