



## INNOVATIVE ENERGY PROVIDES JOBS FOR IOWANS

Creating more jobs for Iowans is a priority we all can get behind. Improving and developing our energy resources offers great potential to do just that.

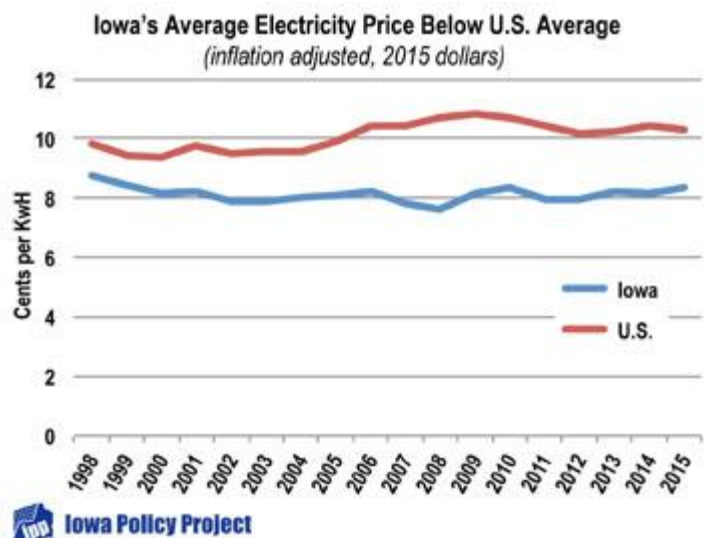
Our universities and community colleges have done a good job of meeting the needs of businesses and utilities that are moving to renewable energy production and manufacturing. We need to make sure they can continue to help Iowans get the skills needed to fill the energy sector's in-demand jobs.

Iowa has made great strides over the last few years to produce more of our own energy. As a result:

- Wind and solar support more than 7,000 Iowa jobs and nearly 300 businesses. Ethanol, biodiesel and other renewable fuels provide thousands more jobs, as well as markets for Iowa farmers to sell their crops.
- Wind energy produced more than 31 percent of Iowa's electricity as of 2015. We lead the nation in electricity from wind and produce some of the highest levels in the world.
- Seven of the top 10 programs at our community colleges provide education and training for the energy sector, and many offer specialized degree programs.

The payoff is good for Iowans' pocketbooks too. For example, Iowa's electric rates have decreased since the wind industry took off and are lower than the nation as a whole, according to the [Iowa Policy Project](#).

However, there's more to be done. As we prepare for the 2018 legislative session, I look forward to taking bold, bipartisan steps toward a vibrant, clean and secure energy future. Iowa's economy—especially in our smaller towns and rural areas—will benefit.



## THE LATEST FALLOUT FROM BAD BUDGETING

Bad budgeting continues to hurt Iowans. At the end of June, we will close the books on Fiscal Year 2017, which saw Iowa's \$928 million surplus plummet to a deficit of more than \$130 million.

Departments are now implementing cuts to make ends meet. Last week, we learned that the Iowa Department of Public Health is cutting essential health care services that will hurt Iowa families and increase future health care costs. For example, Iowa children will be denied hearing aids and vision screening, making it much harder for them to succeed in school and in life.

We're also learning the truth behind the delay in Iowans' state income tax refunds. The Branstad/Reynolds Administration told Iowans earlier this year that officials were taking extra steps to prevent income tax fraud. However, a [Des Moines Register](#) investigation revealed that the state didn't have enough money to refund Iowans' hard-earned money in a timely way.

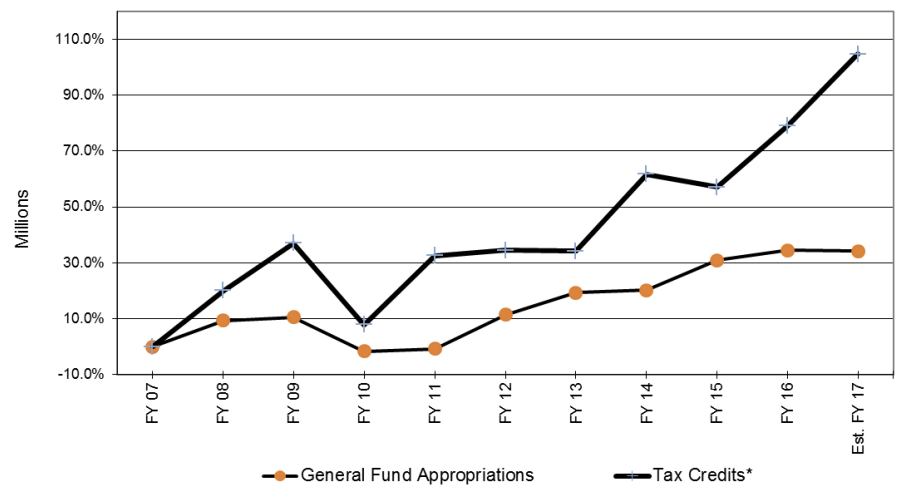
While Iowa families are shouldering the burden, tax breaks for big corporations make up a growing part of our state budget—now topping \$500 million annually.

Economic prosperity and fiscal responsibility will return when Governor Reynolds makes good on her promises to increase family incomes by 25 percent and to create more than 200,000 new jobs; and when legislators focus on strengthening our schools, building the skilled workforce that Iowa employers need, and improving quality of life for all Iowans.

We must change course and make working families a priority again by:

- Investing in K-12 schools and preventing more school closures
- Keeping down the cost of college and job training
- Making health care accessible to all Iowans
- Paying fair, living wages to all workers
- Re-examining tax breaks for big corporations

**General Fund Appropriations and Tax Credits**  
Percent Change Compared to FY 2007



\* Tax Credit data from Iowa Department of Revenue Contingent Liability Reports.

## WE MUST FIX IOWA'S HEALTH CARE MESS

Iowa's health care problems continue because of bad decisions at the state and federal levels. It's getting us national attention—and not in a good way.

Privatized Medicaid has wreaked havoc on Iowa's health care system, while costing taxpayers more of their hard-earned money; Iowans struggling with mental illnesses can't get the help they need; and private insurers are refusing to sell policies to individual Iowans.

Now, Congress is considering drastic changes to America's health care system that could devastate Iowa families, health care providers, our economy and the state budget. Iowans are worried that:

1. Proposed cuts to Medicaid will threaten health care for 150,000 Iowans.

2. More of us will go without health insurance, which ultimately means an increase in charity care, ineffective treatment and escalating costs for everyone.
3. Our seniors, who make up an increasingly large share of Iowa's population, will be hit especially hard.
4. Cuts and other changes will cost Iowans hundreds of millions of dollars.
5. Health care providers won't be paid properly, which makes it harder to get good doctors, nurses and other health professional, especially in Iowa's small towns and rural communities.
6. Health care layoffs and wage cuts will hurt all sorts of Iowa businesses and weaken our economy.

We need to examine Iowa's health care crisis and offer solutions—looking at proposed Medicaid cuts, the collapse of the individual health insurance market, the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the impact on the state budget—with the goal of ensuring every Iowan can afford and receive the health care they need.

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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### ***Safety first with fireworks***

With consumer fireworks now legal in Iowa, the State Fire Marshal offers these safety tips:

- **Read the label:** Follow directions for all fireworks and understand how they should perform.
- **Avoid aerial rockets in populated areas:** Their direction of travel can change and could injure people or cause a fire.
- **Keep fountains away from buildings:** Fountains can shoot upward in the air and set buildings on fire.
- Talk with your neighbors before using fireworks: The noise may disturb them and frighten pets.
- **Never point fireworks at others:** If the firework goes off early or in an unintended direction, it can hurt people nearby.
- **Never use illegal fireworks:** Devices with higher levels of explosives are extremely dangerous.



For more safety and fireworks information, visit the [State Fire Marshal's website](#).

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### ***Women in Agriculture Conference***

Iowa Women in Agriculture is hosting its 11th annual conference on August 1 in Ankeny. The 2017 conference will cover the latest outlook for ag trade, marketing strategies for low commodity prices, financial risk management tactics, transition and estate-planning tips, and ideas for generating new income and adding value. Participants may also attend a Water-Quality & Beef Production/Pollinator Habitat Tour on Monday, July 31. For more information and to register, go to [www.iowawomeninag.org](http://www.iowawomeninag.org).



### ***Iowa Nonprofit Awards***

The Iowa Nonprofit Awards recognize the exceptional practices, achievements and impact of nonprofit organizations and professionals, philanthropic organizations, national service and volunteer programs, and local collaborations for their efforts to address community challenges. Nominations will be accepted through July 31. Complete details and nomination materials are available at <https://volunteeriowa.org/iowa-nonprofit-awards>.

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### **Contact information**

State Senator Jeff Danielson serves Hudson, Cedar Falls and Waterloo. He can be reached at 319-231-7192. E-mail him at [jeffdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:jeffdanielson@gmail.com).

Senator Danielson is ranking member on the Education Budget. He also serves on the Appropriations, Education, State Government and Transportation committees.

For further information, go to [www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson](http://www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson) and [www.jeffdanielson.org](http://www.jeffdanielson.org).