



## Protecting Landowner Rights and Strengthening Iowa's Energy Economy

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Iowa has long been a national leader in homegrown energy. From traditional sources like natural gas to renewable technologies like wind and solar, along with emerging innovations such as nuclear and geothermal, Iowa's diverse energy mix powers communities and supports economic growth across the state.

Across Iowa, these projects are built on private land, creating opportunities for farmers while generating tax revenue that strengthens local budgets. As electricity demand continues to rise, Iowa has an opportunity to remain at the forefront of America's energy future, but only if the state maintains a clear, predictable path for responsible energy development.

Today, inconsistent local regulations and extended moratoriums in more than half of Iowa's counties are slowing or blocking projects that could benefit farmers and rural communities. These shifting standards create uncertainty for landowners and businesses alike, making it harder for investment to move forward in Iowa.

HF 2580 addresses this challenge by establishing clear, science-based guardrails for how wind, solar, and battery storage projects are sited. The legislation prevents unpredictable rules, excessive requirements, or indefinite delays that can stall responsible projects.

Most importantly, the bill protects the rights of Iowa landowners. Renewable energy projects are developed on private land, and participation is fully voluntary. Farmers who choose to host projects gain a stable, long-term source of income that can help offset tight margins, rising input costs, and fluctuating commodity prices. The legislation also explicitly prohibits the use of eminent domain, ensuring these decisions remain entirely in the hands of landowners.

The economic impact of these projects is already significant. Iowa's wind and solar developments represent more than \$27.3 billion in capital investment, generating \$76.5 million annually in property tax revenue, and \$90.3 million each year in payments to landowners.

Yet without clear rules, even greater economic opportunity may be lost. Across the state, renewable energy projects currently in development represent \$21.1 billion in potential investment, along with \$56.5 million in annual property tax revenue and \$69 million in annual landowner payments. Restrictive ordinances and moratoriums risk sending that investment, and the economic benefits that come with it, to other states.

HF 2580 brings certainty to the process while protecting the interests of landowners, taxpayers, and local communities. By establishing consistent standards and clear timelines, the legislation ensures that Iowa remains competitive for new investment and continues to support the farmers and rural economies that power our state.

At a time of rising property taxes and economic pressure on farm families, Iowa should not be turning away opportunities that strengthen local budgets and support landowner choice. HF 2580 ensures that

communities can benefit from responsible energy development while keeping decisions about private land where they belong... with the people who own it.

### **Additional Resources**

- [IA Solar and Agriculture](#)
- [3 Ways Solar and Agriculture Work Together](#)