**Sample Letter to the Editor - Outdoors Enthusiast**

The outdoors are important to me and my family and to most Iowans. **{insert a few sentences about why the outdoors/natural resources are important to you, such as memories or specific locations you enjoy with family, friends, etc.}**

Less than 10% of Iowa’s wetlands – natural spaces that help prevent flooding and provide habitat for wildlife – remain. And 53% of Iowa’s waters rank “poor” and 500 waterways are “impaired”.

Other serious problems including soil erosion, loss of wildlife habitat, flooding, water pollution and cuts in state park funding. The Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund will help ensure these trends don’t continue.

In 2010, 63% of Iowans voted to establish the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. This fund is constitutionally protected to ensure 100% of the money is directed to conservation efforts. Yet, for the last six years, the fund has not received any dollars.

The solution is simple. The voters passed an amendment to the Iowa Constitution guaranteeing 3/8 of 1% of the next sales tax increase would have to be spent on natural resources. It is expected to raise $180 million annually. While this will bring millions to conservation, the average Iowa family will pay less than $1 per week to fund the trust. It is a great return on investment for a cleaner, healthier Iowa and better quality of life for all Iowans.

**{offer a personal closing summary}**

I am urging our legislature to fund the trust in 2016. Please contact your lawmaker and ask them to do the same.