

April 16, 2017

Dear Members of the Iowa House and Senate:

We write to you today as Iowa State University alumni and on behalf of over 600 other concerned citizens, including Iowa farmers and many other Iowa State alumni, regarding the proposed budget cuts in the education appropriations bill. The proposed bill would eliminate the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture. In this letter, we have included the many the hundreds of comments we received overnight to demonstrate the broad public support for the Leopold Center's role in fulfilling its legislative mandate to:

(1) identify the negative environmental and socioeconomic impacts of existing agricultural practices, (2) research and assist the development of alternative, more sustainable agricultural practices, and (3) inform the agricultural community and general public of the Center's findings.

It is imperative that the Center be funded in full and that the state's public funds dedicated to research on water quality continue to be managed through the Leopold Center's transparent grant making process, as was initially mandated by our state legislature at the Center's founding.

As Iowa State University graduate students, we personally benefited from the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture's research grant funding. The broader community of nonprofits, farmers and land managers also benefit from the applied research and outreach that the Leopold Center has supported. Further, their leadership in building a long-term vision of agriculture in Iowa state that is economically and environmentally viable has brought benefit to **all** Iowans and much of the U.S. Midwest. Simply put, the committee's funding decisions demonstrate a short-sightedness for the greater good of the state, and simply kick the can down the road for future generations to deal with the economic, environmental, and human health costs and challenges of water pollution and climate change. These issues will not go away by eliminating the Leopold Center.

Further, we are extremely disappointed with the rushed and secretive nature of these budget decisions. This process has not been transparent and has limited the ability of Iowans and ISU alumni to thoroughly participate and express our perspectives. We call for a public hearing to provide Iowans the opportunity to share testimony before a vote on the budget.

We started a [petition](#) earlier this week to aggregate public support which now has over 600 signatories. Please see the below comments from concerned citizens, which demonstrate the wide support for the Leopold Center's work and mission. We will continue to share the updated petition and comments.

Thank you,

Saul Abarca, Ph.D. 2015

Ahna Kruzic, M.S. 2016

Claudia Prado-Meza, Ph.D.
2013

Andrea Basche, Ph.D. 2015

Laura Frescoln, M.S. 2015

Gabrielle Roesch-McNally,
Ph.D. 2016

Anna Bruen, M.S. 2014

Annie Heuscher, M.S. 2012

Angie Carter, Ph.D. 2015

Virginia Nichols, M.S. 2014

Jennifer Vazquez-Koster, M.S.
2011

John Cotton Dean, M.S. 2012

Ashley Noonan, M.S. 2014

Stefan Gailans, M.S. 2011

Salley Worley, B.S. 2001

<p>My family has farmed in Iowa since the 1800's. We consider ourselves scientific farmers and we use Leopold Center funded research to make our farms both more environmentally and financially sustainable.</p>
<p>In my community of Dubuque, nearly 1/3 of residents are obese. In some schools, nearly 1/2 of students are considered overweight. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture has supported research on Food Hubs which has been instrumental in making healthy fresh food grown by local family farm businesses available and accessible to children who most need it.</p>
<p>The LCSA has consistently supported soil and water quality research with an Iowa-focus, enabling practical research that wouldn't be funded by other entities, especially federal agencies. LCSA research underpins and enabled the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Assessment and Strategy, and is the reason we have a path forward to clean water and sustainable agricultural production in the state. There is much research and action left to do, and LCSA knows what it is and how to get it done. LCSA is more critical now than ever!</p>
<p>I'm a Co Soil Commissioner and research Helps us. Farmers need help saving soil. Our county has the most terraces of any county in Ia</p>
<p>I was a student and graduate assistant at Iowa State University between 2009-2012. I worked on a multidisciplinary project "STRIPS at Neal Smith" that was supported by the Leopold Center. Our research found that planting small strips of prairie into rowcrop fields has disproportionately large benefits, such as 90% decreases in soil loss, 85% decreases in nitrogen loss from surface runoff, and huge increases in biodiversity on the landscape (https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPs/). This practice is now being incorporated on farmer fields across Iowa. This is just one example of the MANY impactful projects that the Leopold Center has supported.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is important to me in so many ways. The staff and board are a source of inspiration, provide critical feedback on my research, and help promote my research. The Leopold Center has provided critical funding to my lab which has been used to leverage other state, federal, and private dollars. Thus funding has supported research that has gained attention across the Iowa countryside, regionally, and nationally. It has supported the training of dozens of students. It has generally made Iowa a better place to live, work, and play in.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center makes a positive difference to the lives of Iowans as well as to the state's agricultural landscapes. Not only does the state and its residents benefit from the work of the Leopold Center, but states and institutions across the United States look to the Leopold Center for its leadership in sustainable agriculture. When I tell people I was at Iowa State generally the first thing they say to me is, "Oh that's where the Leopold Center is. They do such good work!" Why would we defund something that makes such a positive contribution to our own wellbeing and promotes the state and its opportunities beyond the borders of the state?</p>
<p>"The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University was created to identify and develop new ways to farm profitably while conserving natural resources as well as reducing negative environmental and social impacts. " The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is an Iowa treasure!</p>
<p>A bastion of important think tank research to make our state a competitive viable, competitive state as it sustains viability for future generations</p>
<p>A lot of good work has come out of the center re: land management practices in the state. If the legislature is serious about addressing Iowa's nutrient and land management challenges then cutting support for the Center makes no sense whatsoever.</p>

Achieving sustainable agriculture requires study, both quantitative and qualitative for the future of farming as well as the safety of all of Iowa's residents.
Agriculture and natural resources are an important part of Iowa and its economy.
Agriculture defines Iowa, if we continue to grow crops by spreading poison, eliminating diversity, and sending our soil down river, Iowa will be a wasteland. The mission of researching and spreading sustainable agriculture practices has certainly not been achieved.
Agriculture is Iowa's most important industry, and we need innovative thinking about the challenges that it faces, such as erosion, water quality, superweeds, etc.
Agriculture is the foundation of our communities, families and economy. We must find new ways to preserve the sustainability of our nation's most important industry, and without the Leopold Center that fight will be all the more challenging.
Agriculture is the largest industry by far in the state of Iowa. The Leopold Center is fully committed to providing not-for-profit research and information towards the goal of sustainable agriculture, a goal which is far from being reached and meanwhile contributes greatly to the worst water quality issues in the nation.
Agriculture is the soul of Iowa. The Leopold Center research projects have been major contributors to helping us keep agriculture alive and sustainable into the future. I strongly oppose the Legislature's proposed cuts to the Center's funding.
Agriculture is very important to our state, of course. So is clean water for drinking, for fishing. So is conserving our soil for future generations of farmers. So is habitat for wildlife. ALL of these things are important to the quality of life for Iowans.
Ah and a clean environment should not be in conflict.
Aldo Leopold was a visionary of his time and his views still ring very true today. The Leopold Center helps Iowans to conserve and respect the land we call home. Our land and resources have given us so much but will not continue to be able to do so if we fail to take action now. The Leopold Center helps to ensure a healthy future for all Iowans.
All hands are needed on deck to sustainably feed the world for future generations. Leopold is a big hand.
An organization dedicated to researching and implementing natural resource conservation, including soil & water, in an agricultural context is absolutely vital to creating a healthy, safe, and vibrant future for Iowa.
Anything to save our natural resources should be funded - without question. This is our future at stake.
As a citizen of Iowa I value the research the Leopold Center has done to protect the waters of Iowa. Safe drinking water is extremely important to me.
As a farmer, the information that the Leopold Center has given to farmers is key to providing and keeping a sustainable farm. The Leopold Center is a key factor in helping farmers and others live a sustainable life.
As a former resident of Iowa, I benefitted through the Leopold Center's thoughtful research to improve the state's sustainable use of natural resources. Access to clean water is a human right, and the Leopold Center's work on water quality is more important now than ever as the Dakota Access Pipeline runs through Iowa's waterways. Fully fund the Leopold Center to keep Iowa from being the next Flint!

As a local foods advocate, educator, and Iowa Food Hub director, I can not imagine living in Iowa without the continuing foundational support from the Leopold Center. It has been one of the leading forces for local food system development work; and critical to advancing sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices. Please continue to support this worthy organization to make Iowa great again!

As a manager of a nonprofit, I can vouch for the Leopold Center's value on a professional level. The organization has funded a number of research projects for our organization that have allowed us to further research in local foods arenas.

The research that the Leopold Center conducts and supports is not only beneficial for those who are direct beneficiaries. Each county in Iowa has been granted support through Leopold Center funds, and the research conducted is recognized as a benchmark in innovative agricultural development nationwide. In addition to providing funding for grantees and other partners, the Leopold Center is able to leverage a great amount of funding with each project. This means that they are able to jump-start economic, academic, and social development in our state.

The center aids in a variety of efforts: everything from reduction in soil loss and nitrate runoff, to the development of local food systems, a quickly growing sector across the nation. The Leopold Center's work impacts the practices of farmers across Iowa, and helps support the jobs of hundreds of Iowans. Without the Leopold Center, Iowa would suffer a great loss, and may no longer be a leader in innovation in agriculture.

As a resident of Iowa, the work done at the Leopold center on water quality and nutrient reduction directly affects my quality of life and health. Please don't defund such an important organization.

As a small scale farmer, I rely on the important work done for soil and water quality by the Leopold Center for Iowa and Iowans. I am extremely disappointed by this year's legislative session and the poor choices made by greedy and short sighted politicians.

As a wildlife biologist, the connections between healthy agricultural practices and healthy wildlife populations is vital. Healthy wildlife populations are indicators of healthy habitats. Healthy habitats are indicators of healthy ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems means humans have a better chance to be healthy, too, as we are an integral part of these ecosystems. We continue to ignore that fact. The Leopold Center conducts critical research and provides critical information for the greater good. It's that simple.

As a young adult, the move toward local food is very important for my future. As we encounter more environmental issues that affect food and water availability/cleanliness, etc, I wanted to be assured that I can get the food and water I deserve in the future. The focus on corporate farming in Iowa (and other midwest states) is disheartening, because it goes against my desire for people to have access to cleanly produced food. While I understand many people need to be fed and large farms are a way to do this, I strongly believe that places like the Leopold Center use their outreach programs in important ways, which teach people self-sustainability practices that better their food and the food of their community.

As an agricultural state it is important that we lead the way for the United States and the world in sustainable agriculture.

As an agricultural state we need to continue research to make sure that are soil and water resources can support future generations of

Iowa both rural and urban.
As an Iowa native and landowner, I have tremendous respect for the research conducted by the Leopold Center. Our family has owned our farm in Iowa County since 1856, and we have directly benefitted from the prairie STRIPs project that is generously supported by them. We are proud to be early adopters of prairie strips on our land, greatly reducing the runoff of nutrients and soil.
As farmers, my husband and I value the research at the Leopold Center. We are always looking for ways to improve our farm operation.
As I sit here, preparing for a faculty committee meeting regarding sustainability at Naropa University, which my Ph.D in Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State landed me, I am appalled to learn that the Iowa legislature is poised to defund the Leopold Center. When I talk about the state of Iowa, with regard to sustainability, to my colleagues around the country, the Leopold center inevitably gets brought up, sometimes by the out-of-staters! The Leopold center stands as a testament to the power of compromise and bi-partisanship. It was formed through a bi-partisan bill. Its board is comprised of leaders in *both* industrial and ecological agricultures. The only explanation I can come up with as to why the legislature is attempting to defund the center is an ideological one. In its 30 years of existence, the Leopold Center has always been a beacon of the future, and one that does the empirical research to help farmers to live into that future. Today, sadly, it appears that the Iowa legislature is acting out of the crippling partisan ideology that is running rampant all over this country right now. For the sake of doing what's right, as well as for the sake of future generations of Iowans-- both farmers and eaters, we must stop the bill that is threatening the future of the Leopold Center.
As our social and environmental climates change, it is necessary to develop alternative forms of agriculture that are sustainable over the long term. The Leopold Center is at the forefront of such crucial research and development. It is an invaluable resource nationally and a point of pride for Iowa.
As someone with an invested interest in food security and agriculture in Iowa, the Leopold Center has been an irreplaceable resource for information concerning everything from available C.S.A. subscriptions to food and vegetable production budgets. Iowa has only ever benefited from investing in such a vital institute, and should continue to invest in it.
As the agricultural landscape and economy of Iowa faces an uncertain and challenging future, the Leopold Center will be crucial in helping Iowans make progress. The work will ensure that we can maintain our strong agricultural heritage, and find success in future farming.
As the world population continues to increase, we here in Iowa, at Iowa State University, and in research need to be dedicated to Iowa's future. Soil and water quality issues are growing in concern and will not just go away in the future. We need to address these questions and provide feedback to others pertaining to conversation practices.
As we battle water quality problems and soil conservation issues, it is important that respected entities continue to research and recommend best practices without undue pressure from outside entities.
At no time in history can Iowa benefit more from finding new, innovative ways to protect our natural resources.
Balanced research in agriculture is critical. If ISU loses the Leopold Center the only theory of ag will biotechnology limiting students to innovation and research studies.

Because Leopold Center is very important for the whole sustainable agriculture community. It provides all kinds of resources to support research and learning activities related to sustainability. We graduate students have benefited from Leopold center for many professional development opportunities and funding our research projects. In addition, Leopold center is an icon organization for Iowa State in the field of organic agriculture, agro-ecology, and sustainable agriculture. In many conferences, I have heard out of state people talked about Leopold center. Leopold center definitely boost Iowa Sate University's reputation!
Because of The Leopold Center's support for innovative research and demonstration, Iowa is a leader in the Midwest in sustainable agricultural practices and sound natural resources management.
Because the Leopold Center is one of very few in Iowa that focuses on sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is
Being an agriculturally-based state, and seeing that all Iowans need clean water and fertile soil for basic sustenance, it is imperative that we continue to research and fun projects related to making agriculture more resilient.
Both ISU and the environment are very important to my family and I don't see how Jack Whitver can turn his back on either.
broad focus and effective and wide reaching programs and research for Iowans not just farmers
Citizens of Iowa, students, researchers, teachers, and tourists all benefit from having the Leopold Center deliberately trying make change through promoting an understanding of sustainable ag.
Clean air and water are important to me. Biodiversity is important to me. Sustainability is imperative for our sustainability, thus the name.
clean air, water, and land
Clean water for Iowa!
Climate and sustainability
Climate change is the single most pressing issue facing our state, country, and world today, and impacts every other issue. We cannot survive if current trends continue, and Centers like the Leopold Center help educate future leaders and communities as well as providing real solutions to our current environmental problems.
Conservation and sustainable agriculture are vital to sustaining Iowa's rural communities! After living around the country I moved back home to Iowa to pursue a career in farming and raise a family in rural Iowa. The Leopold Center's resources and research will help me and my family succeed!
Conservation research is essential to securing Iowa's future in agriculture.
Conventional corn-soy agriculture is unsustainable, and the Leopold Center plays a key role in helping Iowa farmers, and absentee owners such as myself, prepare for a sustainable, nutritious and prosperous future.
Current agricultural practices may not be sustainable and may not keep our state's natural resources healthy. Support and research for sustainable agriculture is absolutely necessary.
Cutting edge research being done
Do we really want to drag down Iowa's legacy of agricultural improvements? We should be promoting the impact of its work rather

<p>than limiting its funding. Iowa as a state is a leader for the US in agricultural education. Why would we ever lose sight of the value in that great honor and responsibility? Please consider how this can negatively impact farmers in the great state of Iowa. Now consider the positive effects of deciding to defund a research facility that improves the lives of people across the country and around the world. The negatives out way the positives in every way - even in terms of finances because of what the research provides in financial returns down the line. This idea to lower funding for research is not in the best interests of Iowans or any Americans.</p>
<p>Educating farmers about sustainability practices impacts every Iowan. By keeping our land healthy, it keeps our communities and our economy healthy.</p>
<p>Environmental Education is very important!</p>
<p>Everyone who lives in Iowa (and beyond) has benefitted from the Leopold Center's programs in the form of cleaner air and water, as well as a stronger local economy.</p>
<p>Farmers need a source of unbiased study of a wide range of agricultural practices. The Leopold Center provides just that.</p>
<p>Farmers need innovative research to help us promote soil health, water quality, and climate services within the current production models in Iowa. This is was the Leopold Center has done for 30 years. They are on the cutting edge and they partner with farmers in all of their research. One of the best research centers in the country that is a direct resource for farmers. Eliminating this resource is a direct attack on farmers who want to do a better job with conservation.</p>
<p>Farmers need to stop tilling in the fall and leaving dirt loose and unprotected from runoff and wind. We need cover crops to protect our water and soil. We need conscientious farming to reduce loss and taxpayer expense. We need less chemicals used on crops and soil to protect people, animals, water, bees.</p>
<p>Farming today is in dire straights and we need to keep funding sources of study that push the boundaries that Big Ag would like to keep us within.</p>
<p>For a fraction of the budget compared to other big ag programs, the Leopold Center offers meets the needs of farmers and extension workers by providing valuable research.</p>
<p>For safe and sustainable agricultural practices and to keep my state free of pollution and poisoning.</p>
<p>Funding for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is important to Iowa's future as an agricultural state.</p>
<p>Funding from the Leopold center is crucial for research at Iowa state to continue.</p>
<p>Funding science in agriculture is vital to the future of humans who eat.</p>
<p>Funding sustainable agriculture initiatives is vital if farms are to remain a source of income for farmers, and food for consumers. Without the research and techniques to improve, we fall behind and miss out on the opportunities that new farming techniques bring to all stakeholders. Put politics aside and do the right thing.</p>
<p>Future is sustainability</p>
<p>Hands down the most important resource in sustainable agriculture in the country</p>
<p>Having had aspirations to join graduate school, my dreams could not come to fruition until I received 1/4 time financial support to</p>

<p>enroll for my masters degree in 2013 from the Leopold center. This became a stepping stone for my advanced professional career and today, I am proud to be associated with the center and I am sure there many more that have testimonies to share. Eliminating funding to the center is not only affecting just the great research that the center has continued to conduct and publish over its lifespan, but it also means cutting the professional career paths and dreams for many young people across the world that the Leopold Center has supports over the years. Imagine if it were your child? Imagine it was that one person that society looked up to to inspire the community in valuing education as a key resource for our young generations? As an international funding the Leopold Center is one way that in which America has made the rest of the world a better world by providing education opportunities to people such as me as well as empowering us with the necessary tools that we look forward to using in improving our agricultural systems in the countries where we come from.</p>
<p>Help support the local foods movement in Iowa.</p>
<p>I am a graduate of ISU and former resident of Iowa who is proud of the work the Leopold Center has accomplished WITH Iowa Farmers. Reducing topsoil erosion is a major issue that the Leopold Center works on in Iowa, and something that affects all Iowans. Please don't destroy this amazing center by defunding it!</p>
<p>I am a Iowa farmer. The Leopold Center is essential for improved nutrient loss management to start to rebuild our soil and reduce input cost for the long term.</p>
<p>I am a local certified organic farmer, and I have benefited from the programing and research of the Leopold Center.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the longterm environmental health of Iowa.</p>
<p>I am deeply concerned about the negative effects, caused by corporate farming, on our environment in Iowa. We desperately need continued monitoring and research done in this area to avoid catastrophic destruction of our beautiful state.</p>
<p>I believe in sustainable ag and Iowa is moving in the opposite direction. We need more research, not less. Voter ID bills and corporate tax giveaways should be defunded.</p>
<p>I believe practicing agriculture in a environmentally safe way is important to Iowa's economy.</p>
<p>I believe that any organization, facility, or group that wishes to continue work on making our agriculture more sustainable is extremely important.</p>
<p>I believe that clean water is a human right, and we in Iowa are putting at risk our water systems and our futures with our current agricultural practices.</p>
<p>I came to Iowa State University, in part, because of the Leopold Center. The Center is one of the excellent and exemplary institutions at Iowa State, and its presence is one of the reasons ISU continues to attract excellent students and faculty.</p>
<p>I care about the future of all forms of agriculture. The center is a non-partisan research organization that does important work that benefits all farmers and Iowans.</p>
<p>I currently live in Montana and still utilize resources produced by the Leopold Center. Not only is the Center a leader in Iowa, it is a leader across the country and it is of great value to us all. Please maintain its funding!</p>

I didn't elect my officials for them to raise incentives to destroy public goods like soil and water quality. I love Iowa and Iowa land. The projects funded and the knowledge shared by the Leopold Center are important for Iowa's sustainable agricultural development. (Permission to quote as "Story county resident" or other un-identifying terms, currently an employee of ISU)
I don't want to get cancer or have any of my loved ones get cancer because of pollution caused by unsafe agricultural practices that pollute the air my family breathes and the water we drink.
I first learned about the Leopold Center while living in Florida. I was able to learn about the issues related to Iowa agriculture and to our food system through its website. When I was able to move back to Iowa, what I had learned from the Leopold Center helped me become a better farmer, a more aware consumer, and a person who was very happy to live in such an exciting state. It gave me hope. I believe the Center must be funded to continue giving hope to Iowans for a future that values its rural communities, its farmers and growers, and its environment.
I have worked all of my adult life to support environmental issues and to protect and restore our land. The information from the Leopold Center is key to informing us how to live on and treat our land, water and air.
I have worked closely with people in the Leopold Center and have cited research findings conducted at the Leopold Center in my own research. I also see our teaching and research institute In Florida look for information from the Leopold Center publications. Their research studies are fundamental to the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources and to the wellbeing of all Iowans and US residents.
I know couples graduate students are using this fund for their research.
I live in rural Iowa and sustainable agriculture is the future.
I most recently lived in Iowa where I attended Leopold Center sponsored lectures regularly. It was very clear to me how valuable the Center is not only for Iowa but for the national conversation around sustainable agriculture. I currently live in Nebraska, where I am a multi-generation landowner where we have managed a ranch in the Sandhills with rotational grazing for over forty years. I think it would be a huge disservice for agriculture not to have an independent organization such as LCSA who distribute grant funds to researchers developing new techniques for ranches and farms like my family's. I myself am investigating opportunities to build my own business (beekeeping and craft beer/small grains/hops) and research such as that supported by LCSA can offer support to small business owners as they get enterprises off the ground. Investing in agriculture is always a wise decision, so let's keep it accountable, independent and focused on sustainability. My family would not have our ranch in Nebraska if we did not practice holistic management that has buffered us against drought. I truly think places like the Leopold Center help make alternatives a reality, and help keep families on their land.
I rely on the Center's work for information on soil health and other farming topics. Their use of funding is wise, and their work is appreciated by all who know of it--even out here in rural Minnesota.
I retired after 30 yrs. working for the IDNR and it was evident across the state that the LC had accomplished more than most people would understand.
I support efforts toward water quality and research.

I support sustainable agriculture practices and i believe organizations such as this are leading the way in Iowa
I support the Leopold Center's work and critical mission, because it has a positive and profound impact on our quality of life and future. The Center's projects are compelling examples of forward thinking and community problem solving, and are recognized as a model across the U.S. Defunding the Leopold Center is not only a mistake, it would be a failure of government to serve its people, and a tragic loss for Iowa.
I utilize resources created through the Leopold Center such as the Beginning Farmers guide to get kids and adults excited about growing food and therefore excited about eating healthy food and purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables grown locally.
I value and care about sustainable agriculture in Iowa, my home state. I plan to return to Iowa in future and want it to remain the beautiful place it was during my childhood. I am from a family of farmers, and I value the future of agriculture, therefore I strongly support the Leopold Center's efforts to increase sustainable farming practices and the environment which supports it.
I want publicly funded ag/environment research to continue. I want publicly funded leadership in local food systems to continue. I want good publicly funded research to support the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I want facts to contribute to policy about ag and the environment. If not Leopold, how does the Legislature intend to use our tax dollars to fund this kind of work?
I work for Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Leopold Center has helped fund our projects and most importantly the on-farm research that our members conduct. I also have co-workers who have been supported by the Leopold Center. It would affect our members and farmers in Iowa.
I work in conservation and agriculture. The Center is crucial to improving soil and water quality AND productivity on Iowa's landscapes.
I'm a farmer and the Leopold Center does essential work to support farmers and rural communities.
I'm concerned about water quality, the environment in general
In a state so often defined by its agricultural past and present, the Leopold offers a shining example of the options and alternatives available to farmers and consumers alike.
In order to achieve a 45% reduction in nutrients in our waterways the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy recommended adopting a suite of conservation practices. While we are about halfway in our no-till goal, we have achieved less than 1% of our goals in cover crops, wetlands and bioreactors. We have not 'achieved' sustainable agriculture in Iowa and we haven't 'fixed' our water quality.
Independent research results, untainted by corporate greed, are essential to solving the water quality problems of this state.
Innovative research and outreach.
Iowa agriculture is far from sustainable. We have a lot to do to farm in a way that allows for clean air and water. We also have a lot of work to do to maintain our own state-level food security through increased infrastructure that builds a local food economy throughout the state. Iowan's should eat local!
Iowa farmers interested in protecting Iowa waters and farming their land so it will be as productive for their children and grandchildren as it is now need the expertise the Leopoldo Center has to offer.

Iowa is an agriculture state and sustainable ag is the future! Sustainable ag is also an economic development opportunity that increases our economy and tax base.
Iowa is first and foremost, an agricultural state. Iowans have a deep connection to the land, the air, and the water that not only provides economic support for many, but sustains life in the heartland. The Leopold Center and the important work it does supports the economic development of ag business in Iowa, provides vital research to increase agricultural business opportunities in the Midwest, and works to create new ag business ideas for the future. Iowans value the environment beyond economic and business considerations, however, and we demand legislators properly fund initiatives like the Leopold Center to continue to provide clean air, clean water, and productive agricultural lands. Do the right thing!
Iowa is in dire need of research for sustainable agriculture and water quality.
Iowa must move towards more sustainable agricultural practices to protect soil and water.
Iowa needs educated and supported to move to a sustainable future
Iowa needs the Leopold Center to allow the state to continue to be a leader in world agriculture.
Iowa needs to apply sustainable methods to be able to continue leading the way in agriculture and land management.....and everyone needs clean water and eats
Iowa needs to be a leader in Agriculture...with all of us working together no matter what "side" of the equation you are on. We need the Leopold Center to keep us moving forward!
Iowa seems to be regressing rather than progressing. The Leopold Center is necessary to support growth, sustainability and education. If Iowa wants to continue leading and being a resource to small businesses and sustainable agriculture, then we must continue to support and fund the Leopold Center. Young families, entrepreneurs and those seeking career opportunities aren't going to move to Iowa or stay in Iowa if we continue regress. Our rural communities are already suffering and removing funding will only make matters worse. Thank you for your consideration.
Iowa should be the leader in this important evolution of American agriculture.
Iowa's farmers need a place other than those that profit from them for important research and learning!
Iowa's future depends on clean water and fertile soil. The Leopold Center is a key component in ensuring our future.
Iowa's Nutrient Reduction strategy is the only thing standing between farmers and heaps and mounds of federal regulation. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy must succeed, in some form or another, in order to keep farms running smoothly and keep our drinking water clean enough to drink. We can argue about how effective the current Nutrient Reduction strategy is, but there is no argument that it would be (will be) less effective without the Leopold Center's efforts to improve agricultural sustainability in the state of Iowa. This defunding is not an attack on environmentalists, it is an attack on Iowans.
It does important work.
It funds sustainable agriculture research which is necessary for food security
It has had enormous impact in iowa and beyond to protect pollinators, soil, and water. Watchdog also. I'm afraid your corporate

sponsors want that to end as it costs them money.
It impacts many farmers and students in our school through school gardens and education about local foods.
It is a national resource and leader.
It is an important part of Iowa State University.
It is doing cutting edge work on agriculture that will save the human race.
It is funding research that likely would not otherwise be funded.
It is important to have a diversity of voices in every discipline. Diversity leads to innovation and creative solutions to life's difficult problems. By defunding, the Leopold Center we are removing a strong and diverse view point from the Iowa agricultural community. In this time of increasing challenges - environmentally, socially and politically we need need diversity more than ever.
It is key to future of Iowa agriculture as it continues to degrade it soil and water and depopulate the countryside
It is one of the great hopes for the future of sustainable agriculture
It is very important for us and future generations for the research that the Leopold Center does for Iowa's Agriculture, water quality and many other projects they continue to work on for our State.
It is vital that sustainable ag research be funded for a greener future
It pays for itself. Especially in an agricultural state, it seems like it would be a no-brainer.
It supports creative, sustainable agriculture that incorporates community concerns.
It supports local food systems, like in Grinnell!
It's a gift to the state of Iowa!!!
It's important to have continued research for important agricultural studies.
Its important funding for research to improve Iowa's water quality, among many other projects, all of which impact Iowan's quality of life.
Land and water conservation.
LC supports research projects that otherwise would have little support
Leader of farming, environmental issues and healthy communities
Leopold Center funding helps create healthy citizens in Iowa!
Leopold center gives the small operator the ability to practice sustainable farming practices.
Leopold Center has been the flagship when it comes to sustainable agriculture in the State of Iowa and the Midwest. Innovative research and practices developed through Leopold Center's programs are critical in supporting our ongoing efforts in making agriculture sustainable (economically, environmentally, and socially).

Leopold Center has made positive impacts to our food system in Iowa and Nation.
Leopold center is a model to balance the abuses of conventional industrial ag.
Leopold Center is one of the few organizations working with agriculture in Iowa that has IOWANS interests in mind and not big ag. Leopold supports local foods and sustainable practices, which are vitally important to the health and future of Iowa.
Leopold center is supporting the future of farming and sustainable development for all Iowans.
Leopold is one of the most highly respected institutions on local and regional food systems. They are innovators in supporting this young, still fragile sector. Leopold Center has contributed to the sector's growing success.
Local food system work and conservation efforts are extremely important and the Leopold Center is a leader in this type of work.
Love the food programs and offerings they make to our community!!
Model of independent thinking about sustainable practices crucial to our future.
Modern Farming practices have to be constantly examined and improvements made whenever possible. Ensuring clean water and air are vital.
Money invested in the Leopold Center produces monetary returns, so even those advocating fiscal responsibility should continue funding the Leopold Center. More important than that, it is an investment in our future.
More so now than ever, Iowans have expressed support for funding Water Quality Improvement efforts, such as through the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Republicans have proposed legislation to finally fund the trust in response to Iowans wishes. However, the current proposed actions will cripple the Leopold Center, which has a long history of supporting practices that improve water quality and soil health, provides guidance in their implementation, and has created an infrastructure for all Iowans to access information about these practices. Removing funding for this nationally renowned Center will hurt Iowas efforts to promote water quality and soil health.
My concern stems primarily from private capacity as a citizen of Iowa -- and the United States of America. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is doing vital work that has statewide and national impact. I care deeply about the fate of our environment -- our water quality, wildlife habitat, the climate that supports all life on this planet. I also know that farmers and their land stewardship practices are vital to achieving the kind of balance needed for supporting families, communities and our natural resources and biodiversity.
The Leopold Center uses a collaborative, team approach to addressing challenges facing farmers and our local food systems by doing cross-cutting research that draws on the expertise of a wide range of experts and voices. This kind of collaboration is so essential -- not just for the sake of producing creative, innovative outcomes, but as a role model for how constructive partnerships can be forged in spite of our social climate of divisiveness.
The Leopold Center's work resonates nationally, and the direct support it has provided -- to farmers, to researchers, to students -- has

touched countless thousands, through the ripple effects of projects and their impact on ordinary citizens.
The need to find sustainable solutions for Iowa and the nation will only grow more urgent, as economic and environmental challenges confront farmers and communities. We need an organization like the Leopold Center to exist, helping to find the answers.
My family has farmed, in Iowa for 5 generations. Sustainable agriculture is critical for Iowa families to stay on their land and know that the top soil is there for next year and the wells aren't contaminated when I need to provide for the family. The Land and the People are Iowa's legacy, please vote accordingly.
My strong passion for agriculture has led me to pursue higher education and work for a master's degree from ISU. My future research work and assistantship is being funded by the Leopold Center. The Leopold Center has done tremendous things for the sustainability of agriculture and I want to leave agriculture in a better way than I found it.
Need sustainable development especially in agriculture to address issue of future food security. Future development of nation lies in agriculture sector .Unless center like Leopold is given funding we are headed towards a big disaster.Even if we address resolutions in CoP21 held in Paris we still need to address food security issues .Provide Food security with Climate change should be our MOTO ..
Nitrogen runoff is a growing concern in Iowa particularly as it relates to water quality both in Iowa and downstream (ex: Gulf of Mexico's "dead zone"). The fact that a money raised through a tax/fee on nitrogen fertilizer and pesticide registrations would be taken away from this center is unconscionable and short-sighted. I cannot think of a better way to spend those funds which would benefit more people in a more meaningful way.
No comment if it might be shared publicly...I'm too mad.
Non biased research in the field of agriculture
Once important resources are lost, they can never be recovered. This short sighted attack on the environment by GOP will harm us now and in the future.
One of the most forward thinking and far-reaching initiatives coming out of the Iowa Legislature has been the Leopold Center for Sustainability. The Center located at Iowa State University is made-up of non-partisan professional employees who manage and direct the Center's activities. Those activities help Iowa farmers and the larger agricultural community by providing results from research conducted in Iowa on Iowa soils that improve their profitability and help to enhance clean water initiatives. Iowa is a leader in sustainability and I believe that even in the face of budget shortfalls that representatives can look for funding to make up that shortfall in places where the funds are not making a difference to Iowans. The Leopold Center activities are making a difference.
Organic research and sustainable ag practices
Our current agricultural system is polluting and depleting our natural resources. It is imperative that we maximize funding to explore alternatives that generate profits for our farmers, and regenerate the land and waterways we depend on for the future.
Our health and the health of our world is important to me, and should be to you too!
Our nation needs groups like the Leopold center to promote a lasting and sustainable food system that nourishes both people and soil.

Our state is in the balance now- what will we leave our children? Polluted water and decimated soils? Shame on us if we don't do the best we can to preserve our natural heritage.
Preserving our natural resources is important. The Leopold Center has made significant contributions to that effort.
Programs the Center funds have a long-term positive impact in Iowa on essential topics.
Research and education on sustainable agriculture are more important than ever. The center is effective and efficient.
Research and education on sustainable agriculture is so important for Iowa and the whole world right now. We need this. We need healthy soil, clean water and air to live.
Research and resource development conducted by Leopold Center are critical to the continued growth and acceleration of the food hub sector.
Research and science matter, especially as we are confronted with changes in weather patterns and recognize the importance of conserving good soil and clean water.
Research for sustainable agriculture
Research funded and supported by the Leopold Center has directly impacted the communities in which I now work. I see its impact daily via the conservation practices on the land and the economic impact of local foods. The conversations spurred on a local level by research happening through the Leopold Center is keeping rural Iowa communities alive.
Research is fundamental to protecting our state and its resources, and the Leopold Center's work is fundamental to good research.
Scientific advancement only comes from research which challenges conventional dogma and the status quo. Eliminating inquiry into alternatives shuts off the possibility of improvement.
Scientific agricultural research is vital to the future of our country and food supply.
See above. Chemically-dependent agriculture creates erosion, depletes soil fertility, contributes to flooding, etc. The Leopold Center offers best sustainable practices now and its continuing research and experts will be increasingly needed as we lose more soil, the climate gets warmer, yields level off and decrease, etc.
Seems like research, grants, and programming spearheaded by the Leopold Center would likely "earn" its keep, so to speak. Maybe the Center should justify its existence. But, I definitely don't want it to be a victim of politically motivated budget cuts.
So that this center may continue to spread and further our knowledge in the field of agriculture
Some of my graduate school funding was provided through the Leopold Center. Without these monies I could not have afforded to attend school.
The GPSA was crucial in my personal development. Through my graduate studies I was prepared for my current career, but more importantly deepened my understanding of the natural processes and grew my connection to the land and to place. It is the reason I am a concerned, engaged, and active citizen. I credit my graduate studies with my professional and personal development. Without the funding I received from the Leopold Center I would not be who I am today.

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Sustainability and local systems are the future, and the wellbeing of Iowans depends on funding for programs that support research and services in this area.
Sustainability concepts must be supported for the healthy and economic viability of the state's citizens.
Sustainability is critical especially as we face the problems of our future today.
Sustainability is important
Sustainability is the future of this state and country! The legislature must think long-term!
Sustainability is the only way this country will be able to manage itself in the future. The Leopold Center was the leading force in teaching this to Iowans and others.
Sustainable Ag is important, plain and simple.
Sustainable agriculture in Iowa is important on economic and environmental levels and the Leopoldo center helps to support Iowa agriculture through research and programs.
Sustainable Agriculture is absolutely necessary in our agriculture system moving forward. Our traditional agriculture system is not serving our farmers or our environment, and we need research to support new and affordable systems. Our farmers nor our environment can continue to survive on traditional farming systems. Cutting the Leopold Center is cutting a valuable resource that will help us build a new future for farming in Iowa.
Sustainable agriculture is almost always ignored in politics. And too many university agricultural programs are funded by the very corporations that actively work against sustainable agriculture initiatives. The Leopold Center at Iowa State is one of the few research initiatives that provides an affordable, unbiased way to study the science of sustainable agriculture.
Sustainable agriculture is critical to our state's livelihood. We need systems with diversity for maintaining the productivity of our land and maintaining environment quality.
Sustainable agriculture is critical to the conservation of the land, the earth and all its inhabitants. We need agricultural methods that are sustainable in the long run and not only focus on short time gains that come with the cost of degradation and an uncertain future for the generations to come. The Leopold Center is key for the future of Iowa.
Sustainable agriculture is essential to the legacy and future of the state of Iowa.
Sustainable agriculture is imperative for a greener future
Sustainable agriculture is important to human well-being and the health of our planet.
Sustainable Agriculture is important to Iowa's future as an agricultural state

Sustainable Agriculture is incredibly important not only for the environmental health of Iowa, but for the future economic viability of the agriculture industry in Iowa. One of my minor's at Iowa State University is sustainability and the Iowa State Legislator is basically saying that my field of interest is not valued in Iowa. The legislator has been attacking educated workers and students significantly in the last three months and it needs to end. This is a starting point to turn around their attacks on Iowa's workers and students.
Sustainable agriculture is our future. We cannot continue to mine the soil. We can continue to poisons the bees. We cannot continue to poison our people with chemicals that have caused diseases such as autism and gluten sensitivity to sky rocket.
Sustainable agriculture is soon going to be the only way to farm in not only Iowa, but the world. The Leopold center is taking the first steps in research and education to inform the public about practices that will affect future generations to come. We should not be using this world to sustain ourselves, but to sustain generations to come. Without the Leopold center we will not have the resources needed to continue advancing our sustainable agriculture practices, and will be further set back.
Sustainable agriculture is the future and Iowa should be the leader. I've always been proud to be an Iowan, until this year when the laws and customs in this state verge on barbaric.
Sustainable agriculture is the future of food production in Iowa and across the globe. To maintain a competitive edge in regional and global education and commodity production we must continue to fund the Leopold Center.
Sustainable agriculture is the future.
Sustainable agriculture is the only way to guarantee the future of healthy land, farmers, and consumers. The choice to cut this funding is only to put more money in the hands of the rich and powerful. Sustainable family farmers deserve better. The people of Iowa deserve better. Chemically intensive, destructive agriculture deserves nothing.
Sustainable agriculture research is vital for the future of Iowa
Sustainable structure is imperative for us to invest in and implement in order to ensure food production and access for all Iowans. At a time where we are seeing so much change, economically and environmentally, it is necessary and incredibly important for us to invest in the proper research and practices that will work best for us and benefit EVERYONE for generations to come.
The center does good work and take risks getting new research started.
The center help to promote and harbor sustainable agriculture research projects which is necessary for our society.
The center is a national leader in sustainable agriculture.
The center is a vital resource for agricultural producers who are interested in improving their operations and be better stewards of the soil, air, and water.
The center is an Ag leader and a voice that must not be silenced in the name of democracy.
The center is great for grants and to promote agriculture in our area.
The center provides a critical and transparent research and outreach resource for the state of Iowa in order to build a more ecological and sustainable agricultural system in Iowa!
The center provides resources and support for all Iowan as we all seek to make life on this planet more sustainable. The center has

<p>taught many of us to live more sustainable lives while not degrading the planet. We should not burden our children's lives by degrading the environment for a few extra bucks for wealthy investors. The Center is providing answers for some of our most pressing problems. They provide all of us with hope for the future. DO NOT DEFUND OUR FUTURE!</p>
<p>The Center supports basic and applied science that scales sustainable practices to producers across Iowa.</p>
<p>The Center welcomed me as a new landowner in Iowa with welcome arms, educated me on how native prairie is so important for soil and water quality. This is tremendously important group of people doing good things for the environment, please don't take away their resources, they have important work they are doing for the world, climate change, topsoil preservation, etc</p>
<p>The center works towards the betterment of the state's environmental quality. It provides invaluable educational and research opportunities that have a big impact on students and Iowans. The center must go on for moral reasons if anything else.</p>
<p>The center's research has helped many farmers including those in my state of Maine.</p>
<p>The closure of facilities is an envoy of the end.</p>
<p>The competitive grants process is transparent and rigorously evaluated for scientific merit. No other granting organization in Iowa provides research dollars to ground truth and scientifically evaluate practices the mesh agriculture and conservation. Leopold Center is one of a kind and helps all farmers and the residents of Iowa.</p>
<p>The entire USA as well as Iowa benefits from Leopoldo-funded research. It is critical to have non-profit oversight of research in addition to corporate/seed-titan publications.</p>
<p>The environment is important and so is our history</p>
<p>The founding of the Center was the result of a bipartisan effort because it was evident that the benefits resulting therefrom would inure to the citizens of Iowa and beyond regardless of political affiliation and occupation. During its existence, the Center's leadership, excellent supporting staff and those funded have worked diligently to fulfill the letter and spirit of the law. The loss of the Center would not only be a loss to the citizens of Iowa but to all who seek to address the ever increasing range of environmental challenges that will impact everyone during and beyond our lifetime. Thank you for the opportunity.</p>
<p>The funding from the Leopold Center has encouraged research on very important ag. and water issues that directly affect Iowans. My research on the manure use practices and knowledge of Iowa farmers, funded by the Leopold Center, was critical both to my development as a scientist and as a well-educated citizen and provided scientific information not available elsewhere. Many times alternative funding sources are needed for "less popular" but important research such as mine.</p>
<p>The funding that the Leopold Center provides through grants, the information shared with the public, and all the work it does and supports creates ripple effects across Iowa and throughout the Midwest. It's hard to imagine how Iowa would maintain and build momentum toward reaching our water quality goals (just one example, but a critically important one!) without the support of the Leopold Center.</p>
<p>The funding we received is helping us to pilot new business ideas for local, sustainable food. Small grants such as these are an important resource to small businesses and the Iowa economy.</p>

The future of agriculture depends on it!
The future of sustainable agriculture is dependent on programs such as the Leopold Center that can carry out research and educate farmers on the best methods for protecting water quality and soil health while also producing high quality food.
The genetic base for corn has become very limited. It could be wiped out with one disease or pest like the Irish potato disaster. The base needs to be broadened. People are trying to work on this problem at the Leopold Center. Don't cut out the funds they need. Our future and the whole economic bases of Iowa could be quickly destroyed in a couple of years. Consider what tomorrow could hold that is not expected.
The gulf dead zone remains, water quality in Iowa is not substantially improving. Obviously the need for the Leopold Center is greater than ever!
The investment in their research has paid off immensely in the last 20 years with the new Organic program at ISU which has help profitable organic farms to expand in this ever changing market.
The LCSA has been instrumental in helping to develop and document the effectiveness of the most important soil and water conservation practices for Iowa. The home-grown solutions to difficult agricultural and environmental challenges funded by the LCSA are also used across the country. The Leopold Center is internationally recognized as a trailblazing organization, and the State of Iowa, as its main supporter, has been seen globally as an innovative force in sustainable agriculture.
The Leopold Center addresses key issues of sustainability from the perspective of farmers and others who depend on a healthy environment.
The Leopold Center advances research focused on improving water quality and soil conservation in Iowa.
The Leopold Center advocates practices that are sustainable and beneficial as opposed to agribusiness' practices.
The Leopold Center allows for important research to be done that contributes to agricultural programs across our communities in Iowa.
The Leopold Center allows Iowa to be in a leader in innovation for the continual improvement of agricultural practices in Iowa. The prolonged future of agriculture in Iowa depends on the sound science, transparency, and impartiality that the Center provides.
The Leopold Center carries out important research on issues critical to Iowa: conservation, water quality, local food systems, and improving the long term sustainability and profitability of Iowa farms. This research deserves MORE funding; eliminating it would be devastating for our state and our farm economy.
The Leopold Center conducts and funds research that provides invaluable insight into how farmers can better protect water and air quality while maintaining a livable income.
The Leopold Center creates a nexus for agricultural improvements and understanding among Iowa farmers. It helps to make Iowa a leading agricultural center both in the US and globally. Iowa cannot turn its back on its American responsibilities.
The Leopold Center does amazing work that benefits Iowa communities, graduate students, and serves as a model for the rest of the state and the nation. Losing this well respected institution would be a serious loss for the state of Iowa.

<p>The Leopold Center ensures that Iowa State University can fund research into modern agricultural practices and enhance Iowa's agriculture-based economy. The work of the Leopold Center also ensures that the resources necessary for farming and agriculture are available for future generations of farmers and practitioners. Reducing or eliminating funding for this organization is detrimental to our economy by showing that maintaining future agricultural opportunities in the state is no longer important.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (LCSA) has served as an incredibly important force in Iowa over the last 30 years by supporting and leveraging research and education on sustainable agriculture topics. My former colleagues and I (at Whiterock Conservancy) received a Leopold Center grant in 2010 to study grazing of restored grasslands and used the findings to enhance our restoration grazing techniques. Staff from LCSA supported Whiterock Conservancy's work while I was there, by: providing oversight on the board of directors, opening the Grass-Based Livestock Working Group to discussion of WRC's work, and hosting field days at Whiterock. I am only one of the over 51,000 people who have taken part in LCSA programming. Iowa needs LCSA.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center for Sustainable agriculture is one of the only sane representatives in the discussion of sustainable farming and policy in Iowa. They are a very valuable resource to work toward the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Plan.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is one of the state's greatest successes and a leader in the work that is necessary to move agriculture in a positive direction. It supports research which benefits all Iowans because of the extreme importance of sustainability to our grandchildren's future. It would be extremely foolish and downright immoral to disregard its importance to Iowa's farmers and citizens. Now is the time for us to think about 25-30 years into the future for the sake of human society, instead of the 1-2 year timeframe politicians are stuck on. The work of the Leopold Center must continue.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center funds research regarding the proper management of nutrient application on Iowa farms. These projects affect crop yields, crop quality, wildlife and the environment at the local level, throughout Iowa, and nationally. Providing Iowa farmers with the resources to make informed decisions is a founding principle of Iowa State University. Stripping the Leopold Center of funding would be a disgrace to ISU and the state of Iowa.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center funds several programs throughout Iowa that support the development of local food systems and sustainable agriculture. Personally, the organization I work with, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, are involved with two projects that have a HUGE impact in our North Central area: one is building strong collaborations of our local farmers markets - improving the experience and availability of product for customers and producers alike; the other is supporting the research and development of a food hub model that will include light processing which will greatly increase the market capacity for local agricultural products to restaurants and grocery stores in our area. These projects impact thousands of people, and improve the quality of life for rural and urban communities alike. PLEASE consider the wide impact that this program has throughout our state, and the amount of small, local businesses that are both directly and in-directly by the Leopold Center. The work is crucial for these businesses and consumers alike.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has become a nationally recognized leader in promoting sustainable agriculture for all farmers.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has been a progressive leader in agricultural sustainability. Striving to leverage sparse funding to fulfill its mission outlined by the Groundwater Protection Act of 1987</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has been a strong supporter of programs that have helped my work with women landowners and farmers in Iowa.</p>

<p>Research and funding programs related to resource management have also been integral to work I've done in the natural resourced field, working with farmers on best management practices to reduce soil loss and improve water quality. Last, as a small scale farm partner, our farm has benefited from the Leopold Center's support of organizations like Practical Farmers of Iowa. The Leopold's work is not done. We need more of the center's expertise in Iowa and nationwide, helping us mitigate the tremendous challenges in agriculture.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has been critical in support of local foods. This is (among many positives) a significant economic development opportunity. Small food farmers are very important to our area and state. Dollars going to Leopold return many fold in outside money and new opportunities.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has been instrumental in developing agricultural agronomic and conservation practices that have led to better soil and water quality across the state. Researchers across the state (ISU, UI, UNI, Drake) use Leopold Center funds to leverage federal grant funds that then are spent in Iowa. It's a win-win-win for the state.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has done essential work in nutrient management. As a farm owners my family has benefited from the research the center has done. I cannot imagine losing this important source of research and information that benefits all Iowans.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has done tremendous work supporting agriculture, and thus the future of human health and society. Their work and support is essential to smaller groups and those seeking to explore uncommon, unique methods of managing crops, livestock, land, and water.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has funded and supported so much important work in Iowa that benefits the land, water, people, and future of this state. This work must continue!!</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has funded on-farm research through Practical Farmers of Iowa to help reduce nitrates in our Iowa waters via on farm research of cover crops, conservation efforts, and small grains. They have also funded conservation research, needed so badly in our state. The Center has also supported research on extended crop rotation studies, which have found improvements in crop productivity, weed control, ground water and overall profitability.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has no agenda beyond the truth. The Center has provided politically neutral, unbiased, scientific research and education for decades and must continue this mission to enhance the quality of life for all Iowans.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has offered support and funding to the sustainable agriculture program. Without the center many graduate students will struggle to find funding, which could lead two fewer graduate students enrolling in the program.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has provided excellent research on critical areas of conservation, water quality, livestock grazing, soil health, local foods systems, and many other areas that are essential to the health and well being of Iowa's natural environment, local economies, and the well being of all its citizens.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center has provided ongoing leadership in the development of sustainable agriculture program in the US and beyond. The future of agriculture depends upon the kind of research that promotes inclusive engagement in agriculture (e.g. women, minorities, immigrants), sustainable livelihoods for farmers and farm communities, and that links the production of agriculture with the nutritional health at the population level. The Leopold Center has been a leader in all of these areas.</p>

The Leopold Center has sponsored the work of Iowans concerned about their water and soil resources through more than 600 research projects---on topics spanning water quality, manure management, livestock grazing, cover crops, alternative conservation practices, biomass production, soil health and the seminal work in local food systems development in Iowa. The results of these projects provided information that directly benefited Iowa farmers.

If you look at just six of the major projects the Center funded, for every dollar the Leopold Center spent on these projects, an additional \$4.60 was leveraged to complement or expand the work. (<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/change>) And all this money went to Iowans to help conserve Iowa's precious natural resources.

Sustainable agriculture is an imperative in our state. We do not want to end up like states that mined their natural resources and now there is nothing left.

The Leopold Center helps educate on resources that agriculturalists can use to promote conservation and sustainability on their farms.

The Leopold Center helps empower farmers to improve Iowa into the future.

The Leopold center helps small farmers and protects our environment. Clean water!

The Leopold Center is a beacon for groundbreaking research on agroecology, conservation, and community food systems. This research is practice-focused and disseminated widely in user-friendly fashion. Many students benefit from their roles in LCSA on-farm and local food systems projects. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is held in high esteem far beyond the state borders. It is an Iowa treasure that should attract investments, not budget cuts.

The Leopold Center is a leader in sustainable agriculture as well as resource conservation research. It is one of the few places where I, as a beginning farmer, can easily access resources and information related to my farm business.

The Leopold Center is a national leader in sustainable agriculture, local value-chains, and food systems...all critical issues to the health and well-being of all Americans, not just Iowans. Iowa has long been seen as ahead-of-the-curve by prioritizing these issues and providing state funding to the Center. Eliminating this funding would be a terrible loss for the state and the country.

The Leopold Center is a nationally recognized model for a University-based center. It supports and generates research that helps maintain healthy soils, clean water, vibrant rural communities and productive profitable farmers. Losing it would be not just a shame because of all the good it does but an embarrassment for the state.

The Leopold Center is a pillar of the sustainable agriculture world, and contributes essential research to the future of a healthy environment and food supply.

The Leopold Center is a production and research incubator that is unparalleled in Iowa.

The Leopold Center is a true leader in sustainable agriculture providing timely, research, programming and opportunities for Iowans but also for others across the country to follow. Sustainability isn't something that is solved and done, with climate change farmers are facing new challenges constantly, not to mention new policy initiatives that also pose a new barrier to farmers, the Leopold Center has

been at the forefront of these fights for our farmers and continue to do so. Their research is important for the rich agricultural history and future of Iowa but also for the continued guidance for the rest of the US.
The Leopold Center is an amazing resource and Iowa should be proud to have created such a successful organization. We need to continue to support and fund the Center to help us meet current and future challenges in Iowa.
The Leopold Center is an exceptionally important in the work that it does to pilot the way to protect Iowa's natural resources. With the water quality problems that we face what would we do without the Center?
The Leopold Center is an important force driving innovative research into farming systems that are environmentally sustainable and benefit rural economies, American farmers and the health of our communities. This research is channeled into practices that conserve natural resources, stimulate local economies, and support farmers and rural communities, something important to every American, regardless of political persuasion.
The Leopold Center is doing vital work to protect Iowa's water quality and soils and to further sustainable agriculture practices in the state.
The Leopold Center is essential to promote sustainable agricultural practices in Iowa. Agriculture is an essential part of Iowa's economy and if we want our agriculture to be productive and profitable into the future, we must be working on conservation now.
The Leopold Center is for Sustainable Agriculture. Big Ag is not sustainable!
The Leopold Center is imperative to keeping quality, sustainable agricultural research in Iowa. It's funding is necessary to progress as a state to a better agricultural system and rural livelihood.
The Leopold Center is incredibly proficient at leveraging human and economic capital. Their dedication to the three-fold mission of the Ground Water Protection Act is indisputable. They have peer reviewed research that is making a difference on the Iowa landscape. Current work with the STRIPS project looks to be an economic and ecological breakthrough in the mainstream agricultural community. <u>The competitive research process is needed for Iowas water and soil quality now more than ever. Fully fund the LCSA!!!</u>
The Leopold Center is nationally recognized as a leader in sustainable agriculture that works for ALL farmers. At a time when we need to be cognizant of being the best stewards we can for Iowa's precious land, the work of the Leopold Center can lead the way.
The Leopold Center is not just important for Iowa State University but for Iowa, benefiting its people and the economy through agricultural research, innovation, and outreach.
The Leopold Center is one of the corner stones for organic and sustainable agriculture in Iowa. Our local food system is dependent on the Leopold Center staying funded.
The Leopold Center is one of the few organizations in Iowa that is able to effectively research and promote agricultural practices that work within high production systems and encourage resource conservation at the same time. It is one of the only organizations that puts Iowa as a priority and its mission is crucial to ensuring agricultural and economic stability for our state.
The Leopold center is one of the greatest foundations our state has. It is one of the only centers that will problem solve issues nobody else is willing to touch. Through education, research, and project leaders this centers closure would be devastating.

The Leopold Center is one of the only research funding agencies to support diversified agriculture in the Midwest. This center is critical to ensuring a healthy sustainable future for the state. Cuts to it are short sighted and detrimental to all Iowans.
The Leopold center is one of the pillar of sustainable agriculture in Iowa. Its research are critical to solve important issues such as water quality and soil erosion in Iowa.
The Leopold center is responsible for funding cutting edge research designed to answer consequential and conscientious questions about our agricultural systems. It encourages research that provides farmers and educators tools and knowledge with which to make informed management decisions, and should continue doing so.
The Leopold Center is the one bastion of agricultural integrity left at Iowa State University. They have worked directly with many Sustainable Agriculture graduate students that I know, most of whom have gone on to do amazing things in their field and for their communities. The Center is a great source of information for many young farmers. Funding should not be cut.
The Leopold Center is the only research center in the state focused on sustainable agriculture and prepared to address the challenges Iowa's soil and water face in the coming years.
The Leopold Center is vital to ISU. It is important because it embodies the ideals of moving toward a better future for the earth - our only planet.
The Leopold Center needs to be funded because the research done there is more beneficial than the huge AG college at ISU. The ladder program is funded by Monsanto and teaches students that cows eat corn and soybeans rather than, grass. We need Leopold center research to focus on things like diversified cover crops, water and soil quality, etc. WE NEED TO SAVE IOWA'S WATERS!
The Leopold Center protects the viability and health of Iowa's soil and water. As a result, it protects the family farm - the bedrock of our society.
The Leopold Center provides a much needed perspective. It would be asinine for legislatures to defund something that could be very useful for the future of Iowa. Now is the time to be progressive and creative, especially with the sting of water quality so fresh. Let's make good of the bad, and the Leopold Center is one asset of many that will help in doing so.
The Leopold Center provides a valuable resource by researching more sustainable ways to continue farming, while also studying the impact of current farming practices. Farmers feed the world, and we need places like the Leopold Center to continue to advance farmers into the future and the future needs of society!
The Leopold Center provides essential financial support, resources and education for sustainable agriculture programs in Iowa. I work with Global Greens, a program supported by Leopold, which connects farmers who have come as refugees to land, training and market access here in Iowa. Our program has a huge impact on the families of these refugee growers affecting both their health and financial well being. This program has also broadened many low income families' access to fresh, local food. We could not have done this without the financial and resource support of Leopold!
The Leopold Center provides essential resources to scientists and practitioners working to protect Iowa's important public resources. Their investment in this science is critical to our state's progress and livelihoods. Clean water is an essential part of health communities; the Leopold Center, its staff, and the scientists who have received funding from the Leopold Center have dedicated their

professional careers to ensuring Iowans have clean water. Progress has been made, but much remains to be done -- the Leopold Center is a required asset to make that progress.
The Leopold Center provides invaluable advancement for sustainable agriculture demonstration programs and irreplaceable resources for Iowa communities. The Leopold Center drives excellence in research, experiential learning, and is a crucial part of what makes ISU and the state a leader in sustainable agriculture.
The Leopold Center provides research and outreach to support Iowa's agricultural economy, communities, and heritage while simultaneously protecting and improving the state's important environmental resources.
The Leopold Center provides small amounts of funding to projects with huge potential to positively impact the state of Iowa. It is the definition of a cost effective granting program that only pursues projects with SMALL COSTS but disproportionately LARGE REWARDS. I have seen this under numerous instances throughout my own time at Iowa State University. If the state of Iowa is reduce research funding dollars, this would be the LAST PLACE to do so.
The Leopold Center provides solid research and programming in the field of sustainable agriculture, which I care about deeply and which is needed to create a balanced approach to agriculture and food production in general. Maintaining multiple ways in how agriculture is practiced, keeps diversification alive, and diversification is always the best insurance for the future. The future is always uncertain, and history has shown us that overspecialization in any field and in any undertaking may work for awhile but ultimately is vulnerable to major failures and crashes when circumstances change unpredictably. Having alternatives in place is important, and the Leopold Center provides them
The Leopold Center provides valuable research used by farmers to grow sustainable crops and remain profitable answer conserve iowa agriculture for the next generation.
The Leopold Center provides vital funding and programs to research sustainable agriculture in Iowa, and has positively impacted thousands of Iowa farmers. Its existence is necessary for the future of sustainable agriculture in Iowa.
The Leopold Center represents the historic memory of sustainable agriculture research and education not only in Iowa but across the nation. It also represents the future of sustainable soil management, water quality research and most importantly, the next generation of visionary students we all depend upon.
The Leopold Center sponsors research and educational programs that better our understanding of how best to proceed forward in sustainable agricultural practices; a research interest that is of particular importance today given the devastating effects of our current practices on water quality, soil stability, and food quality.
The Leopold Center supports innovative agriculture research that Iowans depend on for sustaining our landscapes. The funding the Center provides is critical for addressing many challenges we face in managing our lands to provide not only clean water, and fertile soils, but also robust businesses and resilient communities. Cutting funding for the Leopold Center is cutting off investment in our land and our people.
The Leopold Center supports innovative development of new sustainable agriculture practices
The Leopold Center supports on farm research that helps family farmers conduct on farm research to improve their profitability as

well as environmental performance. This is the essence of sustainability and is needed more than ever now as we ask Iowa farmers to step up and help achieve the 45 % reduction goal of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution called for in Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
The Leopold Center supports research and grants that are important to all of the citizens of Iowa.
The Leopold Center supports research that not only aids farmers in adapting to new environmental and economic challenges but improves the lives of all Iowans through improved water quality, access to local foods, and multifunctional landscapes.
The Leopold Center teaches students of all ages critical thinking skills for ways to better manage our lands for present and future generations. Aldo Leopold's legacy is a state treasure that must be protected!
The Leopold Center was set up to address water pollution issues in Iowa. We want to eliminate this office now?
The Leopold Center, among other wonderful contributions, allowed me as a graduate student to obtain experience writing grants for research projects with direct impacts on the communities in which a researcher is living - that experience was invaluable as I continue my academic journey, and would not have been possible without the unique funding structure of the state of Iowa and the Leopold Center.
The Leopold Center, supported by the people of Iowa, is a gift to America. All Americans benefit from the research and extension work it has produced or underwritten over the years. But Iowans get an excellent return on investment-- not only because Leopold brings private and federal funding back to Iowa, but it also hosts meetings, events, and conferences that bring additional dollars to the private sector. Efforts to closing the Leopold Center are absolutely penny-wise and pound foolish. I hope that politics will not squander the natural economic advantage the Leopold Center offers the State of Iowa.
The Leopold Center's concern for farm productivity and profit in the long run is important for Iowa's agricultural future.
The Leopold Center's mission is important to Iowa's Farmers.
The Leopold Center's research has helped our cooperative's business expand local agriculture. We have benefited by increasing our local sales by almost \$1 million and added at least 5 jobs related to this work over the last six years.
The Leopold Center's value to current and future Iowans is immense, especially relative to its cost, by supporting research and education for which agricultural sustainability is a forethought.
The Leopold Center's work making it possible to continue or start farming without being trapped in cycles of debt and soil degradation has been crucial to the region.
At this moment, we need Centers like this more than ever -- we need to figure out better ways to build carbon in the soil, support farmer livelihood without further degrading the environment and rural economy, and to connect the many people who would like to work in the agricultural and food economy to livelihoods.
Every year, surveys of Iowa farmers suggest that over two thirds of current farmers would strongly prefer to be running more

<p>diversified farms (and almost all farmers would prefer this to some extent). Very few farmers are running the kinds of operations they would like to run or to pass on to their grandchildren. So although the farm economy may be going along pretty well, it's efforts like those at the Leopold Center that hold out hope that our region might successfully become the kind of place our farmers COULD make it.</p>
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<p>The Leopold Center is essential in developing and maintaining sustainable agriculture.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is our way of leaving a better farm state to our children</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides an alternative initiative and balance to an agricultural program which is heavily supported and, in turn, influenced by corporate agriculture.</p>
<p>The Leopolds Center contribution to sustainable agriculture extends not just to all of Iowa, but the thinking and work registered on a national scale. To defund this asset to the larger sustainable agricultural movement and mid-sized farms across the nation would be a travesty.</p>
<p>The loss of this organization will have a negative impact nation wide.</p>
<p>The mission of the Leopold Center is vital to the quality of life and the environment of the State of Iowa.</p>
<p>The most progressive and practical organization in the land grant institutions, It has a long and established history of research and outreach and has credibility.</p>
<p>The most reliable regenerative agriculture research comes from the Leopold Center</p>
<p>The research and education AND the projects that the Leopold Center are known for have helped our county and our state in so many ways. Our Farmers Markets have benefitted greatly from the Regional Foods Working Groups and we all benefit from the legacy of the land, the support of diverse landscapes and clean water that projects promote. ASK THAT YOU PLEASE ALLOW A HEARING for Leopold Center Funding.</p>
<p>The research conducted by the Leopold Center is essential to the future of agriculture in Iowa. Conservation practices that are the result of this research help ensure clean water and protect the environment of Iowa as well as the nation.</p>
<p>The research funded by the Leopold Center enables us to both determine and promote best practices for agriculture in so many of its dimensions. And when a project is funded by the Leopold Center, attention is paid by important funders of sustainable agriculture like</p>

<p>the Kellogg Foundation and the Wallace Foundation--so much so that those projects receive much more money than would otherwise be the case. With some 600 projects in 30 years here in Iowa, and all of it nonpartisan and scientifically sound, it seems an absolute boon to the state, all farmers and Iowa's reputation for agricultural excellence. It's a keeper.</p>
<p>The research supported by the Leopold Center is critical to many small-scale producers in Iowa, as well as large-scale producers of common commodity crops seeking to improve the environmental impact of their agricultural practices.</p>
<p>The results of their work provide real solutions to Iowa's complicated agricultural and environmental problems.</p>
<p>The state of Iowa is facing an environmental crisis and needs institutions like the Leopold Center to ensure our farmers have the best information and research to protect and improve our natural and agriculture environments.</p>
<p>The studies they support lead to new ways we can be better caretakers of the earth,</p>
<p>The sustainability of our lands, from farm fields to prairies, are among the greatest issues facing our state. We cannot allow such a valuable resource and service to fall by the wayside.</p>
<p>The university needs to explore all kinds of solutions to agricultural issues, not just the conventional or what the Ag companies expect.</p>
<p>The US needs high quality research centers, period. Of huge concern is continuing to feed ourself nutritious, healthy, affordable food while diversifying farmer income and protecting the environment for future generations. The Leopold Center is at the forefront of this and must be preserved by the state of Iowa at all costs.</p>
<p>The work and students that the Leopold Center produces is imperative to the sustainable future of agriculture in Iowa and across the country.</p>
<p>The work of the center brings the research of the local to the global into view that is helpful to students and colleagues.</p>
<p>The world is in ecological crisis. Legislators who are unwilling or unable to understand the science that leads to this conclusion are dangerous. They are pushing human culture to a new Dark Age, where superstition, lies and greed reject reason and compassion. Chemistry and physics are hard sciences. Rejecting the reality of their physical forces will not stop them. Only sustainable practices including regenerative agriculture can begin to mitigate the erosion of ecological services foisted upon Society by industrialized processes the mine natural resources rather than steward them.</p>
<p>Yet, the Iowa Legislature led by Terry Branstad, would strip funding from the Leopold Center, and turn over my hard earned tax dollars in tax rebates and incentives to the very industries that produce the serious ecological consequences we suffer in Iowa, especially in rural areas. I am a rural resident and I deeply resent the poisoning of the Des Moines River by eroded soil laden with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and expensive manufactured fertilizers that increase eutrophication of rivers and streams. Claiming that the work of the Leopold Center is finished - is either a deliberate lie, or the thoughts of the willingly benighted. The work of the Leopold Center is just beginning. The Iowa Legislators who presume to take away funding for this important work do this because they know research generated proves that agriculture can be done differently and more sustainably.</p>

I can only surmise that this cabal of legislators are more loyal to the dark money infusing their campaign accounts than they are to Iowa Citizens and future generations of Iowa's children.
The world needs healthy soil and clean water for a sustainable future!
Their research has supported the creation of hundreds of new jobs across Iowa
Their research improves our environment and family farms
Their work is critically important to Iowa's water quality, local foods networks, and so much more of the things Iowans are dependent on
Their work is much too important to be limited, let alone defunded entirely. Their research is valuable and truly helps American agriculture. It is research that will not be funded, by in large, by for profit companies which fund other research at the University. It helps make ISU and the State of Iowa a leader in the Sustainable Agriculture movement. The state with the World Food Prize headquarters should have more respect for sustainability in agriculture.
There are many new techniques, and unanswered questions, about how to reduce nitrates and pesticides in agriculture that the Leopold Center can help answer. Researchers funded by the Leopold Center can test new crops and new crop rotations to improve the environmental effects of agriculture and keep Iowa's economy strong.
There is NO DOUBT that funding for sustainable agriculture research and information sharing that The Leopold Center provides should be of highest priority for the legislature IF concerns of all Iowa constituents is of concern.
There needs to be an alternative voice concerning agriculture and environmental issues.
They are a key player nationally making economic impacts via local food systems.
They are doing important work on local food systems, crop rotations and water quality!
They do a lot of good in the state and the world
They have produced the best and most pragmatic food systems research in Iowa. The health of Iowa citizens is an important benefit not to be defunded.
They have provided pioneering work in sustainable agriculture, which has directly helped Grinnell area sustainable farmers. This in turn has helped our local economy.
They have published SO much badly needed information related to local foods.
They have supported great research at Iowa State University that has helped students like myself to network with other professionals in agricultural sciences.
They help a variety of research projects that are beneficial for farmers, students and Iowa.
They make sure that research in the state is diversified and are a unique resource in the state.
They offer distance learning that is valuable to ISU!
They promote alternatives to industrial agriculture that ruins the land and our waters. The state's budget shortfall is blamed on low

commodity prices. If Iowans grew even more corn, they would get even less for it! More corn does not solve the state revenue problem.
This attempt to end the thirty years of legacy and vision of such people as Paul Johnson and David Osterberg is frightening and is a another stark reminder of the times we live in. The Leopold Center and Practical Farmers of Iowa were both created to help address Iowa's environmental issues of water and soil and air quality as well as the quality of life of all Iowans. I hope all PFI members will voice their concerns to the legislature regarding the possible abandonment of their commitment to Iowa's future.
This Center funds much needed research and broadens perspectives of environment and sustainability.
This has helped conserve thousands of acres of land, and helped thousands of farmers.
This is a unique program that offers a new perspective to not only the agricultural programs at ISU but also every other college. Everyone can benefit from the critical thought and methodology that is offered in this program.
This is something for Iowa to be proud of. It makes us unique. It positions us looking toward the future rather than clinging to a dying corporate past. The Leopold center has the ability to raise awareness for proper land stewardship through education, preserving the pristine beauty of our state for all to share.
This is the research and think tank that can help farmers today-and educate non farmers on the issues we face in our soil and water conservation and how it matters to us all.
This organization contributes knowledge, training, and leadership to Sustainable Agriculture in our state--something we certainly need and will continue to need even more in the future. Please continue to support the Leopold Center!
This research center has focused on advancing sustainable agriculture projects that directly benefit Iowa and its residents. Furthermore, part of their funding goes to directly benefit minorities, which research has shown is necessary if wanting to improve the community as a whole.
This work is important to lead the way in agriculture research.
To combat big ag makes all the decisions, many unsafe practices for our land and drinking water. My well is polluted due to nitrates. It is sad I can't drink it with out expensive filtration
To deal with our massive water quality crisis in this state, we must continue to support the work and research of this incredibly valuable institution, one of the very best in sustainable agriculture in the country. If we are to solve the water quality crisis, they need MORE funding, not less!
To research and recommend practices that promote water quality and soil health and to expose practices that degrade water quality and soil health. These are 2 huge issues, especially in Iowa.
Water quality in our state has become worse and worse. We need to keep funding research into more ways to get our state free from pollution and the Leopold Center helps do that.
Water quality is a very important in Iowa. The research at the Leopold Center will help in raising the quality of water for Iowans.
Water quality is important in Ames and Iowa

We are an agricultural state and need to preserve our water & land resources.
We are at the crux of a better way of producing food in Iowa and the Leopold center provides the opportunity and leadership for us. We desperately need better cleaner agriculture in Iowa.
We are blessed with Iowa's rich natural resources and Leopold Center has contributed greatly to protect Iowa's soil and water. Don't take the bless away.
We are not living or farming sustainably. Our earth is in trouble and we need places like the Leopold Center to do the research that we so desperately need. Defunding this now would be a colossal mistake and end up costing us a lot more in the future.
We can't ignore environmental issues that will inevitably affect the quality of life that Iowans now enjoy. It would be an appalling display of disrespect toward future generations if funding for this were cut. As lawmakers and representatives, you should want to support programs that make Iowa seem appealing to young, educated people like myself. Taking away funding for programs that show Iowa's commitment to sustainability and agriculture will have the opposite effect.
We can't save our soil in Iowa without this research center.
We have abused this land in our state and the programs supported by this center are working to repair the damage and make farming a sustainable practice.
We have to continue to invest in our communities this way or else there's nothing left.
We need a center for sustainable agriculture research at ISU to ensure that the long term interests of Iowans are represented.
We need clean water, clean air and arable land for this and future generations. The Leopold Center is dedicated to this goal. I have always been proud that Iowa is home to the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
We need continue research on important issues as environment, including soils, water quality, better treatment and living conditions for livestock, etc
We need more focus on sustainable agriculture in Iowa, not less. Help us remain leaders in sustainable ag!
We need MORE research and action to increase organic farming and a more diverse ag in Iowa - for the sake of water quality, bee and other pollinators' survival, human health, and top soil and soil tilth improvement, etc.
We need organizations that support, research and educate on sustainability in our state.
We need scientific and practical results that work for Iowa, the Leopold Center does this. There is no other Center like it. Don't ax it.
We need the Leopold Center and sustainable thinking more than ever.
We need their view point and message.
We need to keep our children educated about sustainability! We must not let go of what is good for us as humans.
We need to keep scientific inquiry behind decisions made concerning soil and water quality, sustainable agriculture, and other ag management in Iowa. I support local food movements in North Iowa that have benefited from a Leopold Center grant and ISU consultation. This program offers the connection between the university and the local citizenry that helps Iowa grow economically and

environmentally. Please continue funding this important program!
We need to keep the brightest minds working on research in Iowa
We need to keep working on all phases of sustainable agriculture for the health of our people and the health of our land.
We want Iowa to be known as the " healthiest state". This goes hand in hand with the work of the Leopold Center. It is unacceptable to take away these funds.
We've all benefitted from the Leopold Center's programs and research. Don't let politics get in the way if science. How about cutting tax breaks instead of cutting programs.
What educated, thoughtful person who cares about the future would NOT want to fund research that leads to a better life on this planet for everyone??? This is a total no-brainer!
Where do I begin? I want to leave a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.
Why are they trying to impede sustainable farming? Other than supporting industries were the long term viability of the land and its people take the back burner and get burnt.
Why would you want to get rid of the Leopold Center when they are providing research needed to keep our water and soil resources at a high quality.
With only 478,000 Iowa farmland acres representing less than 2% of Iowa's 30 Million Agricultural Farm land using cover crops as means to regenerate soils, build organic matter, prevent further soil erosion and as a means to reduce nitrate and phosphorous pollution of our vital drinking sources, coupled with reducing the dead zone down stream, how can we in good conscience not fund the Leopold Center? Where else does Iowa farmers and ranchers have a research based "Home Grown" place to turn to that provides unbiased expert advise that allows for methods and applications that will restore Iowa's fertile valleys, soils and water using vital proven regenerative methods? The idea that 98% of Iowa Farm lands are still in the year 2017 using production methods that assure sterility of biological soil activity, erosion of top soil and overall degradation of our most productive farmlands is the greatest crime against humanity imaginable.
With the exception of four years in the U..S. Navy, my life has in some way been connected to agriculture. This includes graduating from Iowa State with a B.S. in Agriculture, working on farms, working in Ag Extension, and working and retiring from FmHA, and in addition living on a small farm for 46 years, where we installed waterways, tile, and terraces. Nothing is more important to Iowa than the conservation of our soil and water resources. The Leopold Center has been a leader in these efforts. At age 86 what happens will have little effect on me personally. However, I am very concerned about the conservation of our soils and natural resources for future generations. I urge you not to cut funding for the Leopold Center.
Work from the Leopold Center and it's funding has been fundamental in understanding issues surrounding and in developing improved practices for improved water quality; diverse cropping systems, including organic agriculture; sustianable grazing systems and modern agroforestry. Hard to imagine Iowa in 2017 without this great work to inform our important agricultural decision so today.