

Date: December 19, 2007

To: IOWAccess Advisory Council

From: Elizabeth Garst, Chair
IA DNR Natural Resource Commission
1313 Fig Avenue
Coon Rapids, IA 50058
E-Mail: lizgarst@gliddenwildblue.com
Phone: 712-684-5240

Re: IA DNR Donation Database Project Request

Dear IOWAccess Advisory Council,

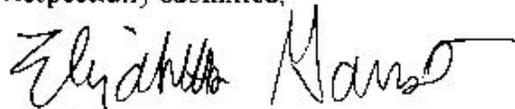
I would like to express my support for the creation of an electronic tracking system of donations made to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. As a Natural Resource Commissioner, with the charge of reviewing and approving donations to the Department, it is very important we are presented with the most complete records possible to make wise and appropriate decisions as directed by Iowa Code, Chapter 455A.5. The current manual system is causing a fragmented and incomplete accounting of donations to the Department.

Internal processes will improve greatly by creating the proposed automated system that staff can access via the Internet, reducing time, money, and resources, as well as provide more accurate reporting to the NRC, Governor's Office, and legislature. The data collected will also provide the Department with a better tool in being able to provide deserving and appropriate recognition to the generous individuals and organizations that have contributed to the State. Along with letters of appreciation, other recognition could be created such as press releases, special certificates, or collection of data for special awards (ie Golden Dome).

Not only will this new system provide comprehensive reporting, it will provide a unique service to the citizens of Iowa, and other interested parties nationwide and even globally. This service is anticipated to allow individuals to view and explore donations by certain criteria (ie: type of donation, location donation went to, donor, amount donated, etc.) as well as offer an opportunity to investigate ways and encourage others to donate.

Your consideration of this project is greatly encouraged. If you have any questions about my views on this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Garst, NRC Chair