



NCSL

MIDWEST ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

January 24 and 25, 2013

Iowa State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa

Sponsored by University of Iowa School of Public Health, American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest and the National Conference of State Legislatures

The 2013 Midwest Environmental Health Policy Summit was held in January in Des Moines, Iowa at the Iowa State Capitol. The Summit was a joint venture of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), the University of Iowa, and the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest. This was the fourth in a series of annual meetings held throughout the Midwest in which the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest participated.

Over 30 participants attended the summit. The agenda included a wide range of current topics concerning indoor and outdoor environmental health issues.



Legislators and their staff from all the Midwest states were invited by NCSL. The attendance included legislators and legislative staff participating over the 2 day summit. The legislators asked engaging questions, were well informed on some issues, and were involved in interesting discussions driven by the presentations.

MARY BRAUN

House Democratic Research State, Iowa

SEN. ED CHARBONNEAU

Indiana State Senate

REP. SUSAN CONCANNON

Kansas State Capital

REP. MIKE FORTNER

Illinois House of Representatives

TIM GARY

Office of Representative Donald Friske
Assembly Committee on Environment &
Forestry
Wisconsin Legislature

REP. LEE HEIN

Representative to the State of Iowa

REP. JAY HOUGHTON

Missouri House of Representatives

REP. CHUCK ISENHART

State Representative Iowa

REP. ERNIE LEIDIGER

317 State Office Building
Minnesota House of Representative

JACE MIKELS, IA

Research Analyst, Iowa General Assembly

REP. JOE MULLERY

Minnesota House of Representatives

LEW OLSON

Research Analyst
House Republican Caucus Staff
Iowa General Assembly

JEFF SCHOENFELDT

Chief of Staff for Representative John Nygren
Wisconsin Legislature

REP. HEALTH VAN NATTER

Indiana House of Representatives

REP. ANN WILLIAMS

Illinois House of Representatives

In addition to the targeted audience, a number of other interested persons from the University of Iowa, Centers for Disease Control, the National Conference of State Legislators, Iowa Soybean Association and the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest attended the summit.

SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

Biodiesel Plant Tour



Renewable Energy Group, Newton, Iowa is a 30 million gallon per year, commercial scale, and state-of-the-art biodiesel production facility in Newton, Iowa. Participants in the Summit were invited to tour the facilities to get a first-hand look at how biodiesel is produced and manufactured from raw plant and animal feedstock.

Radon Discussions

The Summit was invited to visit the Iowa Senate State Government Committee Meeting to present some information about radon. Professor Bill Field from the University of Iowa provided a background of the public health concerns from radon and the special concerns for Iowa citizens and Bob Dye from USEPA Region VII gave an update to the current USEPA regulatory program.

Other Topics:

Ken Sharpe serving as Environmental Health Division Director for the Iowa Department of Public Health spoke about the programs and program priorities that are being balanced at the state.

Kathleen Fenton from the USEPA's Regional office spoke about the U.S EPA's School Environmental Health program which provides guidance to the schools about environmental hazards within the school.

Craig Just (University of Iowa) talked an update on the PCB sampling program at the local schools. He also allowed the audience to build organic chemical models using marshmallows and jelly beans to make learning a fun event.

Radon Reception

Elementary student across the country participate in an annual Radon Poster Contest sponsored by U.S. EPA. They learn about radon and the how it affects their homes and schools. This knowledge is translated into a visual representation and submitted in each state. A reception was

held to honor the top five state winners. In addition one of the five winners won a place in the top ten national contests. The Iowa's First Lady Mrs. Branstad presented the winners their prizes and extended her congratulations.

Brett Lorenzen Environmental Working Group
Jill Krueger Network for Public Health Law
Michael Heinze Association of Public Health Laboratories

Provided an open plenary on agriculture and environmental health. Their topics included the information on the Farm Bill, the nutritional aspects of the Farm Bill, and proper testing at public health laboratories.

Grant Kimberly, Director of Market Development at the Iowa Soybean Association provided the organization's strategic plan for domestic and international demand on soybeans as a principal feed-stock for biodiesel. His presentation supplemented the biodiesel plant tour and answered some of the remaining questions. **Randy Olsen** from the Iowa Biodiesel Board provided further clarification to some of the technical process questions.

Questions asked to Grant included:

- The availability of health-related impact studies as it relates to biodiesel
- Water usage from biodiesel plants
- The Illinois market and how biodiesel impacts on RFS 2
- How biodiesel plants impact on the job market
- How the international market plays a role in current U.S. engines

Trevor Penning University of Pennsylvania
Jacquelyn Pless National Conference of State Legislatures

Hydraulic fracturing (fracturing) has been gaining momentum and getting legislative interest in the past 12 months. Professor Penning presented a discussion of the potential harmful environmental and health problems with the process of hydraulic fracturing to secure additional quantities of natural gas. Jacquelyn Pless provided summaries of differing bills on hydraulic fracturing being proposed throughout the nation.

Doug Farquhar of the National Conference of State Legislators closed the meeting by asking the audience if there were other items of interest for future Summits.

This meeting was supported by the following sponsors:



