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Chair and Members of the House  
Land Use Committee:

I am rural landowner on Polk county and I think HB 2173 is a step in the wrong direction for the following reasons.

The choice to put land into a wetlands designation is entirely optional - no one is required to do this

Land designated as wetlands is almost always difficult to farm and if it is farmed it must be drained.

If it is drained more water runs off into a ditch, then a creek and eventually a river and it is gone from our local supply of surface and ground water. Water is becoming more valuable to us all but especially to agriculture. The more water we can keep in our ground for the dry summer months the better.

The ecology and biodiversity of wetlands contribute enormously to our landscapes. Pollinators and other beneficial insects are two that come to mind that that might be especially useful to agricultural.

Remember that no one is required to set aside wetlands but it is an appropriate and beneficial designation for areas which are too wet to farm easily. Please do not pass HB 2173

Sincerely,  
Sarah Deumling