

June 13, 2025

Governor Rhoden Establishes the Governor's Resilience and Infrastructure Task Force

Governor Larry Rhoden recently signed [Executive Order 2025-06](#), which establishes the Governor's Resilience and Infrastructure Task Force (GRIT). The GRIT task force will serve as a strategic advisory body to develop policy recommendations, assess risks and vulnerabilities, and support long-term planning and investment in critical infrastructure systems across our state.

The GRIT task force will include the following members appointed by the Governor:

- Representatives from state agencies for public safety, military, cybersecurity, water and wastewater, transportation, or other agencies as designated by the Governor;
- Members from industry, utilities, the private sector, and academia; and
- Subject matter experts in cybersecurity, emergency management, and critical infrastructure.

The task force will be chaired by Lieutenant Governor Tony Venhuizen, and Adjutant General Mark Morrell will serve as vice chair.

Iowa Governor Vetoes Eminent Domain Bill

Recently, Governor Kim Reynolds of Iowa vetoed legislation designed to create a more complicated and complex regulatory process to build pipelines. In her veto, Governor Reynolds stated, "I've consistently said that if eminent domain is used, it must be rare, fair and a last resort. But HF 639 isn't just about eminent domain. It goes much further -- and in doing so, sets a troubling precedent that threatens Iowa's energy reliability, economy and reputation as a place where businesses can invest with confidence."

While an opportunity does exist to override the veto of HF 639, it would require support from both the House and Senate. At this time, while the House is generally supportive of convening a special session, Senate leadership indicated it would be unlikely.

Click [here](#) to read HF 639.

Appeals court rules federal law preempts county pipeline ordinances

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals recently ruled in favor of Summit Carbon Solutions' challenge of pipeline ordinances adopted by Story and Shelby counties. A majority of the three-judge panel affirmed the prior federal district court ruling in every aspect. The ruling means that counties are preempted by federal law from adopting pipeline safety standards. For example, the Court found that the Iowa Counties' setbacks were indeed safety standards and their direct and substantial effect on safety undermines Congress's express "intent to preempt the states from regulating in the area of safety." It is

important to note that this ruling does not prohibit local governments from considering safety, nor prevent them from enacting all zoning ordinances, as the Counties suggest. The court instead emphasized the distinction between safety standards which the Pipeline Safety Act preempts and safety considerations which the Pipeline Safety Act does not preempt.

Click [here](#) to read the opinion.

Contact for Questions

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