



STATE OF IOWA
KIM REYNOLDS
GOVERNOR

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Paul Pate
Secretary of State of Iowa
State Capitol Building
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I hereby transmit House File 2667, an Act relating to project design standards and specifications, including by providing for a statewide urban design and specifications board and requiring certain reports to city councils regarding noncompliant projects.

While consistency in infrastructure design and coordination between state and local partners are worthwhile objectives, I disapprove of HF2667 because the legislation creates broad new statewide authority without sufficient clarity, accountability, or technical safeguards. Current law allows local jurisdictions to voluntarily utilize SUDAS manuals for public improvements where appropriate. This bill moves far beyond that framework by effectively imposing statewide standards and specifications without clearly defining the scope of “urban design” or identifying which jurisdictions and projects would be subject to the new requirements. Such ambiguity creates substantial uncertainty for local governments, developers, and taxpayers alike.

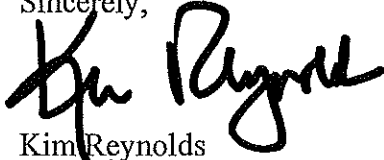
Further, the legislation significantly restructures the composition of the SUDAS board by shifting authority away from professional engineers and public-sector technical experts toward private development interests. Decisions involving statewide engineering specifications and infrastructure standards should remain grounded in technical expertise, public safety, long-term durability, and sound engineering principles. I am also concerned that the bill exempts SUDAS from the normal review and dissolution process for state entities set forth in Iowa Code §4A.5 and thereby reduces legislative oversight and accountability over time.

The bill additionally imposes rigid project requirements that unnecessarily constrain local decision-making and create significant practical concerns. Before approving a project that does not conform to the SUDAS manuals, local officials would be required to submit reports justifying the cost of noncompliance, creating additional administrative burdens and discouraging flexibility for communities facing unique local conditions. At the same time, the legislation prohibits modifications to approved projects after work has begun, yet fails to clearly define when a project is considered to have commenced. That lack of clarity invites confusion, disputes, and inconsistent

enforcement. More importantly, the prohibition on project modifications fails to account for unforeseen circumstances such as soil conditions, environmental concerns, utility conflicts, or other issues commonly discovered during construction. It would also appear to prevent a change order that could reduce costs. Preventing local governments from adapting projects in response to real-world conditions is impractical, risks increased costs and delays, and could ultimately undermine the quality and safety of public infrastructure improvements.

For the above reasons, I respectfully disapprove House File 2667 as specified above, in accordance with Article III, Section 16, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "K".

Kim Reynolds
Governor

cc: Secretary of the Senate
Clerk of the House