

# Opinion & Politics

## ELEVATE Act geared toward small business growth

On Monday The U.S. House of Representatives passed Representative Zach Nunn's (IA-03) bipartisan Encouraging Local Emerging Ventures and Economic Growth (ELEVATE) Act, legislation aimed at reducing regulatory barriers for small and mid-sized businesses seeking to raise capital through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). The bill passed the House unanimously.

Rep. Nunn spoke on the House floor in favor of the ELEVATE Act.

"When investment capital gets trapped on the coasts by large firms and D.C. regulators, it's Iowa's small businesses that suffer," said Rep. Nunn. "The ELEVATE Act is a common-sense fix that would level the playing field for Iowa entrepreneurs looking to grow. It ensures that Main Street businesses are no longer sidelined by outdated rules written for Wall Street giants."

The bill modernizes the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 by allowing Emerging Growth Companies (EGCs) to submit just two years of audited financials instead of three, aligning requirements and reducing burdens on startups and small firms. This simple fix makes it easier for local innovators to access the capital they need to grow and compete.

The ELEVATE Act will move to the Senate for consideration.

## Supporting domestic manufacturing

Support continues to pour in from small manufacturers in Iowa and across the country for Senator Joni Ernst's (R-Iowa) Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act that doubles the loan limit for Small Business Administration (SBA) manufacturing loans.

Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship Chair Ernst's bill will continue to fuel the great manufacturing boom happening under President Trump and ensure that "Made in America" becomes the norm instead of the exception.

"I think we as a community have the potential to once again be a manufacturing powerhouse in the Cedar Valley, as well as serving throughout the United States. I am optimistic that if stewarded properly, the additional resources available to small businesses will supercharge innovation, collaboration, production, education, and flourishing of our businesses, and workforce," said Kevin Taylor, owner of Ceilley Pallets in Waterloo.

The bill has previously earned high marks from groups across Iowa.

"Iowa's manufacturers are ready to grow, invest, and lead in the future of American manufacturing - but access to capital is critical. The Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act is a commonsense solution that will empower small manufacturers to invest in the tools, technology, and facilities they need to compete globally. ABI applauds Senator Ernst and Chairman Williams for their leadership and commitment to strengthening U.S. manufacturing," said Nicole Crain, President of Iowa Association of Business and Industry.

"The Iowa Bankers Association thanks Senator Joni Ernst for her leadership in proposing the Made in America Manufacturing Finance Act. Bank leaders in Iowa have advocated for increasing the loan limits in these SBA programs with the goal of driving more investment in communities across the state of Iowa. Manufacturing is an important piece of Iowa's economy, and Iowa banks are proud partners in helping small businesses grow and expand. This proposed legislation will make the work of our Iowa banks even more impactful," said Adam Gregg, President of Iowa Bankers Association and former Lieutenant Governor of Iowa.

## Household energy costs could increase

A bill that Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Zach Nunn, Randy Feenstra and Ashley Hinson voted for could increase Iowa household energy costs by up to \$550 annually.

"The cuts, which were made in the Republican-backed big, bad budget-busting bill could jeopardize billions in Iowa projects, which is terrible news in a state that is already 49th in economic growth," said the Iowa Democratic Party in a press release.

According to a report in the Des Moines Register, Iowa gets about 60 percent of its energy from wind, solar and other renewable energy—the largest share in the U.S.

Iowa is also home to three renewable energy equipment manufacturers.

Shuttered plants for windmill blade maker TPI Composites in Newton and Nordex Group in West Branch are both looking to reopen this year - employing hundreds of workers.

Cutting the clean energy tax credits, created in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, could result in Iowa losing 14,000 jobs over the next decade as energy supplies struggle to keep pace with demand, even with increased production of fossil fuels.

Fossil fuel costs are expected to climb with increased demand and reduced competition from lower-cost wind and solar energy.

By 2030, Iowans would pay \$210 more each year for energy to power homes and vehicles and by 2035, added costs would climb 162 percent to \$550 each year.

## Relatively Minor

Vicki Minor, Editor  
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*Laughter does not have to come from a major source. It could indeed be ... relatively minor.*

...

### How The Sun Led Me To Surgery (And Left Me in Stitches)

Summer has rolled in, and sun worshippers gather at pools and beaches like moths to a flame! It's the ideal season to catch some rays and aim for that perfect tan, watch out for birds trying to swoop in and swipe your snacks. It's funny how folks lose their minds over the sun and forget that sunscreen is the VIP pass to a sunburn-free life. I've made that mistake more times than I'd like to admit, which eventually landed me in a dermatologist's office, getting an unwanted growth removed. It turns out that neglecting sun protection is not the brightest idea!

That morning, as I lay on the operating table, the nurse prepped me with a couple of shots of local anesthetic. She cheerfully assured me she had enough solution to numb a horse if I felt discomfort. I found that amusing, though I debated whether I should be offended. She also sheepishly admitted that she was not a fan of needles. Naturally, I had to ask why she chose nursing if she had a needle phobia. She responded that she was perfectly fine with poking others; it was getting poked herself that gave her the heebie-jeebies.

The dermatologist walked in shortly, and we exchanged pleasantries before diving into the surgery. I'll say this: the nurse wasn't kidding about the horse-sized desensitizing agent; I didn't feel a thing! After the procedure, the doctor took the specimen to the lab, returning about a half hour later with good news and enough thread to stitch up a horse. (*Trying to stay on theme.*)

As I lay there, I watched his hand wielding the needle and thread back and forth toward the ceiling, which ultimately felt like it lasted an eternity. The sight of the thread reminded me of my trips to the dentist when they always ask if I've been flossing. So, I jokingly said, "Next, you're going to ask me if I've flossed!" The doctor then revealed he didn't floss despite having a sister who was a dentist. The nurse, who adored her mentor, couldn't understand how he got away with that.

While our joking had nothing to do with surgery, it served as a perfect distraction, bringing us all to stitches, emphasizing that laughter is the best medicine, no matter the situation.

Catch the Winterset City Government Update with Mayor Tom Leners on the second week of each month!

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