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**House of Representatives**  
State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Third General Assembly*  
STATEHOUSE  
**Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

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Appropriations  
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Education  
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**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Economic Development,  
*Ranking Member*

Newsletter #5  
2-16-09

Dear Governor Culver,

One of the most important jobs a governor can perform is that of advocating for new businesses and jobs to come to his/her state. No one is as recognizable or deserves to be listened to more than a governor in this respect. Therefore, I respectfully encourage you to go directly to Microsoft headquarters in Redmond, Washington and advocate for Microsoft to remain committed to building the data center in West Des Moines. The data center was scheduled to break ground in 2009. However, Microsoft recently informed West Des Moines officials that plans would be postponed indefinitely due to the difficult economic times. The data center represents \$550 million in new development for West Des Moines and Iowa as well as the creation of 75 new jobs with salaries near \$70,000.

Governor Culver, now is not the time to sit and wait for Microsoft to decide what they want to do. Iowa needs to be proactive in bringing business to our great state. Nobody has more credibility in selling Iowa than you. Microsoft is an example of new business that would bring millions of dollars to Iowa. Real leadership means taking chances even when failure is a possibility. Real leadership also means going to bat for the people who elected you. As a State Representative for West Des Moines, I feel strongly that you can make a real difference for the people of Iowa in this case. This COULD be a signature moment for Iowa and your tenure as governor. I hope you will decide to rise to the challenge. I would be happy to accompany you.

Sincerely,

State Representative Peter Cownie  
District 60  
West Des Moines

Peter Cownie (R-West Des Moines), represents District 60 in the Iowa House of Representatives. The district includes most of West Des Moines in Polk County. He can be reached via e-mail at Peter.Cownie@legis.state.ia.us or by phone at 281-3221.