



116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★

SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

NEWS RELEASE

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Democrats urge Bayh to support a federal renewable energy standard *State legislators point to new industry as economic development opportunity in Indiana*

INDIANAPOLIS- State Senator Sue Errington (D-Muncie) and several fellow members of the Senate Democratic Caucus sent a letter to U.S. Senator Evan Bayh last week, urging his support of a proposal for major utilities to produce 20 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2021. The state legislators explained in their letter to Bayh, a member of the Senate Energy Committee, that using renewable energy is supported by their constituents and would help economic development in Indiana.

"Throughout Indiana there are abundant opportunities to develop renewable energy," Errington said. "Indiana can be a leader in this change because our manufacturing base and skilled workers are well suited to pivot toward producing the equipment for this growing industry. The Brevini factory for wind turbine components that is expected to open in Delaware County is a great example of what we can do."

In addition to Errington, the letter was signed by Senate Democratic Leader Vi Simpson (D-Bloomington), Sen. Jean Breaux (D-Indianapolis), Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend), Sen. Tim Lanane (D-Anderson), Sen. Frank Mrvan (D-Hammond), Sen. Lonnie M. Randolph (D-East Chicago), Sen. Earline Rogers (D-Gary), Sen. Connie Sipes (D-New Albany), Sen. Tim Skinner (D-Terre Haute), Sen. Karen Tallian (D-Portage), Sen. Greg Taylor (D-Indianapolis), and Sen. Richard D. Young, Jr. (D-Milltown).

The lawmakers said Hoosiers want the nation to move toward more clean and renewable energy, and the state has begun the push by operating the second largest wind farm in North America. Hoosiers also continue to develop new green technologies, and are currently focusing on geothermal energy and methane-to-electricity technology, as well as implementing energy efficiency measures.

"Steadily and swiftly diversifying our electricity sector through renewable sources and increasing energy efficiency is smart policy," Errington said, "It's a positive step from a consumer savings standpoint, and it will help keep the state economically competitive."

The U.S. Senate Energy Committee is expected to consider legislation on a federal renewable electricity standard in early May. A renewable energy standard was considered this year by the Indiana General Assembly, but failed in difficult negotiations during the final two days of the legislative session. If approved, Indiana would have joined 33 other states that already have renewable energy standards or goals, including neighboring states Illinois, Ohio and Michigan. Errington says she plans to push for the standard in Indiana again next year.

For more information on the Senate Democratic Caucus or other State Senate business, call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The letter to Senator Evan Bayh is attached.



State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Sue Errington
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Committees:
Education & Career Development
Energy & Environmental Affairs
Health & Provider Services, R.M.M.
Utilities & Technology

May 1, 2009

The Honorable Senator Evan Bayh
United States Senate
131 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bayh,

Please find attached a letter signed by thirteen members of the Indiana Senate Democratic Caucus urging your support of a federal Renewable Electricity Standard due to come before the Senate Energy Committee in early May. We believe a Renewable Electricity Standard would diversify the nation's energy portfolio and create jobs at a time when economic stimulation is critical.

This year Indiana state lawmakers filed more than a dozen bills in support of renewable energy. Additionally, legislation for a state Renewable Electricity Standard was approved by both chambers of the General Assembly. Our constituents want to see a significant shift towards clean, renewable energy, and leadership on the federal level will help support our efforts in Indiana.

As a member of the Senate Energy Committee, your support is vital to keeping this initiative moving through the legislative process and will signal to Hoosiers that now is the time to make this important change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Errington".

Sue Errington
Indiana State Senator
District 26

The Honorable Senator Evan Bayh
131 Russell Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support from Indiana legislators on a Federal Renewable Electricity Standard

Dear Senator Bayh,

As members of the Indiana General Assembly, we represent a diversity of Hoosiers who care about energy security, climate change, and green jobs. Our constituents want to see a significant shift towards clean, renewable energy in this country. Nothing could be clearer in the people's will than legislators filing of more than a dozen renewable energy bills this session in our legislature, and the passage of Renewable Electricity Standard legislation out of both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly.

We hope that you will join your fellow Democrats on the Senate Energy Committee *in support of Senator Bingaman's 20% by 2021 RES proposal*, which we understand will be voted in committee next week.

We believe Indiana will thrive in the national renewable electricity market, in part because every part of the state stands to benefit:

- *In northern Indiana*, our wind resources have been consistently underestimated by critics of renewable energy in Indiana. In truth, Indiana has several thousand megawatts of wind power under development. The 2nd largest wind farm in North America will be completely operational this year; two additional Indiana wind farms recently had groundbreakings.
- *In southern Indiana*, biopower is not a concept, but a fact. Liberty Green Renewables is moving forward with plans to build a biomass to electricity plant.
- *Throughout Indiana*, there are abundant opportunities to develop small-scale renewable energy systems and geothermal energy, and to implement energy efficiency measures, all of which would qualify under a federal RES. In addition, landfills and large-scale livestock farms have already begun implementing methane-to-electricity technology.

America has lost the competitive edge that it once had in renewable energy manufacturing; Europe and Japan, and now China and India, are passing us up. With the passage of a federal Renewable Electricity, we are confident that the U.S. will catch up, and lead again.

We believe that Indiana can be out in front in renewable energy, not only because we are blessed with a diversity of renewable and energy efficient resources, but because our manufacturing base is well suited to pivot towards the manufacturing of components for renewable energy projects, upwards of 1300 firms across the state.

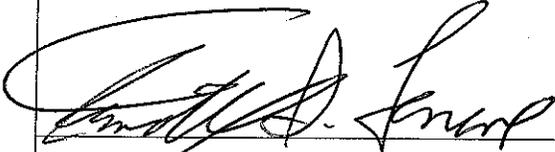
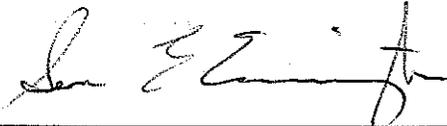
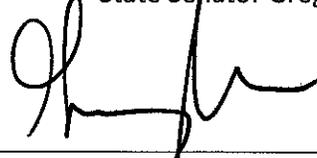
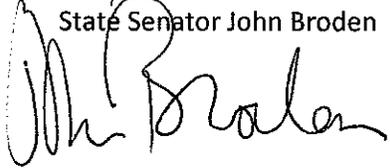
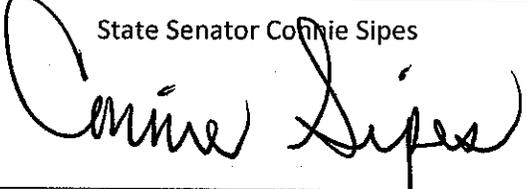
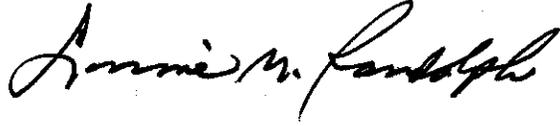
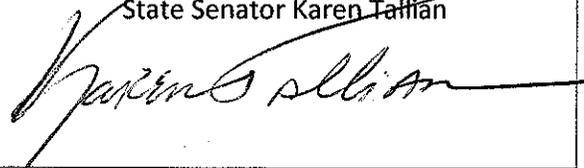
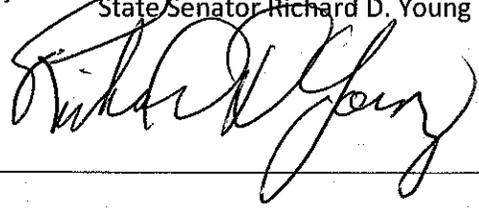
Costs for such a policy have been perennially brought up as concerns, but have been refuted – time and again – by on-the-ground data in the more than two dozen states with an RES. With Indiana so dependent on coal, steadily and swiftly diversifying our

The Honorable Senator Evan Bayh
131 Russell Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

electricity sector by incentivizing non-carbon resources like renewables and efficiency is smart policy from a consumer and business competitiveness standpoint as well.

We urge you to vote in support of the Bingaman proposal.

Sincerely,

State Senator Tim Lanane 	State Senator Sue Errington 
Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson 	State Senator Greg Taylor 
State Senator John Broden 	State Senator Tim Skinner 
State Senator Connie Sipes 	State Senator Lonnie M. Randolph 
State Senator Earline Rogers 	State Senator Karen Tallian 
State Senator Frank Mrvan 	State Senator Richard D. Young 
State Senator Jean Breaux 