



NEWS RELEASE

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Renewing our manufacturing industry through clean energy

Letter to the Editor/ Opinion-Editorial

State Senator Tim Lanane (D-Anderson)
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During this session of the General Assembly, my colleagues and I have put forth a number of initiatives designed to grow our economy. From education, to property taxes, to economic development, we are singularly focused on moving our state forward in these tough times.

Harnessing our state's abundance of renewable energy is one significant way we are looking to create new jobs – and strengthening a specific state policy this session will go a long way toward jumpstarting that job creation. The policy is called “net metering” and it allows businesses and homeowners to generate their own electricity through clean energy sources, such as the sun and wind, and get credit on their monthly bills when they return any extra power to the electric grid. That's good news for consumers and for our environment.

Net metering also boosts job growth for the Hoosier state. Renewable energy sources simply put people to work, touching nearly every industry in our state. From manufacturing parts for wind turbines; to installing solar panels on homes and businesses; to marketing clean energy technologies; to farmers supplying the corn, wood or switchgrass to power biomass energy systems, Indiana stands to benefit.

Indiana already has a net metering policy in place; however, it is one of the most restrictive policies in the Midwest, which prevents most Hoosiers from participating. Both the Senate and the House have passed bills that strengthen our net metering policy and expand it to include consumers, schools, industrial operations, large farms and municipalities. In the last days of session, we are making every effort to work in a bipartisan way to move this legislation forward.

A robust net metering policy opens the door for future renewable energy legislation. In fact, one study estimates that that Indiana has the second highest potential in the country for clean manufacturing job creation – the potential for nearly 45,000 new jobs. Utilizing renewable energy and our natural resources also has the potential to decrease our reliance on foreign oil and put us on a path to greater energy independence.

As the legislative session comes to a close, I remain committed to working for you in the Statehouse to grow our economy and create new jobs. Working together, I look forward to putting our district on the path toward greater economic prosperity.

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State Senator Tim Lanane represents Indiana Senate District 25 which encompasses most of Madison County including the cities of Anderson and Elwood. For more information on Sen. Lanane or other State Senate business visit www.in.gov/s25.