



**State Office**  
603 E. Washington St., Suite 502  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Tel. (317) 205-3535  
(800) 201-1210  
Fax (317) 205-3599

**Northeast Office**  
2250 Lake Ave, Suite 110  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
Tel. (260) 399-1352  
Fax (260) 420-8500

**Turning On Citizen Power**

**www.citact.org**

## **Please Contact your Federal Senators and Representative:**

**Ask them to support a Federal Renewable Energy Standard of 20% by 2020!!!**  
(Contact Information on Back)

A Renewable Energy Standard calls for a percentage (we're aiming for 20%) of an electric utility's electricity to come from sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectric power and energy crops by 2020. 26 states and the District of Columbia have already passed such a law, and 15 other states are deliberating in their legislatures...

### **A Federal Renewable Energy Standard would:**

- Create thousands of jobs in Indiana
- Bring in billions in economic development to Indiana
- Strengthen Indiana's utility sector by diversifying it

### **Public policy needs to be based on facts, not myths!**

| <b>Myth</b>                                                                     | <b>Fact</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indiana has very little potential for renewable energy                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Indiana has at least 40,000 megawatts (MW) of commercial wind, on top of great biomass resources across the state (DOE, 2006). This is enough wind potential to generate 2½ times more electricity than we currently generate by burning coal.</li></ul>                |
| A Renewable Energy Standard would hurt ratepayers                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The impact on electric rates would be very modest: 2% TOTAL increase by 2017 (Engineering Economic Associates, 2006)</li><li>• 28 studies reviewed by the DOE all conclude modest effects – sometimes decreases in rates</li></ul>                                      |
| A requirement is against Indiana's way of doing things                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conservative Texas passed an RES in 2000, and then voted to increase the RES again in 2005 because of the law's success</li><li>• Texas: 100 MW of wind pre-RES, 20 times more wind power post-RES.</li></ul>                                                           |
| Renewable resources will hurt our electric system reliability                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "We don't see any fundamental technical barriers at the present time to wind penetrations of up to 20% of system peak demand..." (Utility Wind Integration Group, 2005)</li></ul>                                                                                       |
| Renewable electricity is not cost-competitive                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wind capital costs have decreased 90% in the last 20 years.</li><li>• Next generation coal technology costs have had continual increases in construction estimates: Edwardsport's planned power plant was initially \$1.3 billion. Now it is at \$2.1 billion</li></ul> |
| Renewable energy investors will come to Indiana whether or not an RES is passed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No – 70% of wind power investment has occurred in states with an RES. Other approaches, such as state tax credits, cost state government and do not guarantee development</li></ul>                                                                                     |

# Recent Developments

This last summer, both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives deliberated on separate pieces of energy legislation. The energy package that passed out of the Senate included a 35 mpg Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard, but no Renewable Electricity Standard (also called a Renewable Energy Standard or a Renewable Portfolio Standard). The energy package that passed out of the House included a 15% Renewable Electricity Standard, but weaker CAFE standards.

The good news on the House side is that four members of the Indiana Congressional delegation voted in favor of the Renewable Energy Standard, recognizing the "net benefit" of this measure for the nation and for Indiana. They are:

Rep. Julia Carson  
Rep. Joe Donnelly  
Rep. Baron Hill  
Rep. Pete Visclosky

The Bad news is that Rep. Baron Hill is supporting weaker fuel efficiency standards in the House. We need stronger standards for fuel efficiency and renewable energy to move our country forward.

Since the House and the Senate passed different pieces of legislation dealing with the nation's energy policy, those bills must now go to a Conference Committee, where the differences in the two bills will be hashed out. Once a final energy bill is crafted, it will be voted on in both chambers before going to the president.

**Please contact your Federal Senators and Representative!!**

**Tell them to support:**

- A 35 Mile Per Gallon Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) Standard
- A Federal Renewable Energy Standard of 20% by 2020

**Capitol Switchboard (for both the Senate and the House): (800) 828-0498**

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| <p><b><u>Senator Lugar</u></b><br/>306 Hart Senate Office Building<br/>Washington, D.C. 20510-1401<br/>(202) 224-4814<br/>senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov</p> | <p><b><u>Senator Bayh</u></b><br/>131 Russell Senate Office Building<br/>Washington, DC 20510<br/>(202) 224-5623<br/>www.bayh.senate.gov</p> | <p><b><u>Rep.</u></b><br/>United States House of Representatives<br/>Washington, D.C. 20515<br/>House Switchboard: (202) 224-3121<br/><a href="http://www.house.gov/writerep/">http://www.house.gov/writerep/</a></p> |
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