

Tell your State Legislators to Reject HB1470 & SB442!

- **House Bill 1470** basically allows the monopoly utilities to raise rates as much as they want, whenever they want.
- **Senate Bill 442** as introduced would have given eminent domain to private corporations, and make Hoosier taxpayers liable for the underground storage of carbon dioxide.

HB1470: Utility transmission improvements and costs

HB1470 is a clear attempt by Indiana's monopoly utilities to usurp the regulatory process so they can raise your rates as much as they want, whenever they want.

HB1470 amends the controversial Senate Enrolled Act 560 (SEA560, 2013), which gave Indiana's electric and natural gas utilities a tracker to raise your rates virtually automatically for the costs related to investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure. ***This tracker is commonly referred to as the TDSIC (Transmission, Distribution, and Storage Improvement Charge).***

Trackers (a.k.a. bill "riders") allow the utilities to raise your rates without filing a base rate case. This means that they get to raise rates when their costs are going up in certain areas, without having to open up their books and lower rates when their costs are going down in other areas. ***For example, the utilities would be able to charge you for new poles and wires with a tracker, while also continuing to charge you for the old poles and wires that they replaced that are still included in your base rates.***



HB1470 will effectively guarantee that captive Hoosier gas and electric customers will face ENORMOUS increases in their monthly utility bills.

Before seeking approval for the TDSIC tracker, SEA560 required that the utilities clearly identified the projects (like poles, wires, pipes, and substations) that they were planning on spending your money on. Obviously the utilities didn't like that, so they wrote HB1470 to remove that requirement. ***HB1470 mandates that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission approve the TDSIC tracker even if the utilities have no idea what they will spend your money on.***

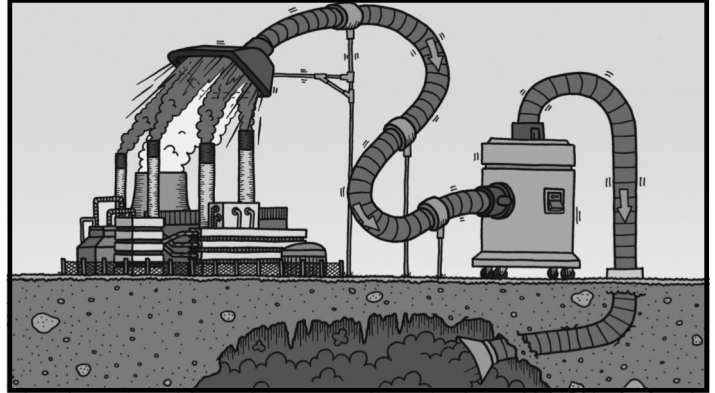
Additionally, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) has previously rejected the utilities including smart meters in the TDSIC tracker. Of course the utilities didn't like that either, so they wrote HB1470 to change it. ***HB1470 mandates that the IURC allow the utilities to force you to pay for smart meters by including the cost of smart meters in the TDSIC tracker.*** And since they don't have to file a base rate case, they can begin charging you for the new meter through the tracker, while continuing to collect for the old meter in your base rates.

Indiana should be exploring legislation to shield consumers from the excesses of monopoly utilities, NOT increasing the monopoly stranglehold on the regulatory process.

SB442: Study Committee for underground storage of carbon dioxide

SB442 was amended in the Senate into a study committee to research the underground storage of carbon dioxide waste. However, SB442 is now in the House and amendments are expected to be proposed to the bill.

As introduced, SB442 would have granted eminent domain to private corporations to force Hoosier property owners to allow dangerous carbon dioxide waste captured from dirty manufacturing facilities, like ammonia plants and coal-fired power plants, to be stored long-term underneath their properties without their consent. Additionally, **SB442 would have put Hoosiers on the hook for the long-term costs and liabilities associated with any problems which can occur as a result of storing carbon dioxide waste underground.**



Those potential risks include:

- The possibility of **carbon dioxide leaking into our aquifers, poisoning our water;**
- The possibility of **carbon dioxide migrating to the surface, causing asphyxiation** because carbon dioxide is heavier than oxygen and displaces oxygen;
- The possibility of long-term underground storage of **carbon dioxide increasing seismic activity.**

SB442 is being pushed by a privately-owned corporation known as Wabash Valley Resources. They are claiming it is a climate change mitigation strategy, but the best way to mitigate climate change is not to produce carbon dioxide in the first place. Wabash Valley Resources intends to repurpose and expand the Wabash River Coal Gasification plant in Terre Haute into a large-scale ammonia production facility. According to the company's website (www.wvresc.com), the proposed facility will use feedstock like petroleum coke in the gasification process, to produce 1,630 metric tons of ammonia per day. They will produce 1.65 million tons of carbon dioxide waste every year as a waste byproduct. They plan to capture this carbon dioxide waste and inject it as a pressurized liquid underground.

On their website, Wabash Valley Resources boasts that this will be, "The nation's first carbon sequestration project producing ammonia for local farmers in Indiana and Illinois." A press release from the Department of Energy posted to the company's website states that the company received a grant from the DOE for research and development, to help "determine the feasibility for commercial-scale storage complexes that can hold 50+ million metric tons of carbon." In other words, capturing and storing carbon waste at this scale is unproven. **Clearly this is another huge science experiment for which another private corporation wants to force Indiana taxpayers to assume liability.**

It makes no sense to open up the entire State of Indiana to the long-term storage of carbon dioxide waste. SB442 as introduced is a false solution to climate change that places the health, safety, and the pocketbooks of Hoosier taxpayers at risk.

The State of Indiana needs to study this issue before passing any legislation related to the underground storage of carbon dioxide waste.

Take Action!

Your State Senator and State Representative need to hear from you!

- Urge them to **REJECT House Bill 1470** because it will basically allow the electric and natural gas monopoly utilities to raise our rates as much as they want, whenever they want.
- Urge them to **REJECT Senate Bill 442** if it gives eminent domain to private corporations and forces Indiana taxpayers to be liable for the long-term underground storage of carbon dioxide waste.

To look up and/or
e-mail your legislators, visit:
<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>

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