

Stop the Utility Attack on Energy Freedom in Indiana!

Whether you're conservative or liberal, Republican or Democrat, one thing we can all agree on is that we like having choices. We like being able to control how we spend our money. And we don't like the utilities abusing their monopoly status to stifle competition and pad their pockets at the expense of consumers.

The utilities have a problem right now. They know that energy efficiency and renewable energy create competition by allowing us to use less of their product, hand over less of our money, and make us less dependent on them. Investments in rooftop solar and energy efficiency are eroding their revenues, reducing their profits, and threatening their very existence.

Monopolies will spin the truth, change the rules, and rig the game - whatever it takes to kill any competition, collect as much as they can, and take the power away from the people. And they did it again this year at the Indiana State House.

"If you're a free market conservative, you don't protect monopolies from competition, because the free market is all about competition."

*- Debbie Dooley
Founder of Conservatives
for Energy Freedom*

Last year, the monopolies killed energy efficiency in Indiana. Our efficiency programs, Energizing Indiana, were very effective, creating \$3 in energy savings for every \$1 spent on the programs. The utilities destroyed them by lobbying for the passage of SB340 (now SEA340). We were promised a strong energy efficiency bill to replace Energizing Indiana. We got a bill alright, **SB412**, but it's anything but strong. In fact it's a terribly weak bill and amounts to nothing more than a huge profit center for the monopolies. **SB412 allows the utilities to set their own energy efficiency goals and allows the utilities to over collect hundreds of millions of ratepayer dollars, making energy efficiency far more expensive than it should be. SB412 was signed into law by Gov. Pence in May 2015.**

Now the utilities are attacking customer-owned rooftop solar and small-scale wind.

HB1320 would have allowed the utility monopolies to write their own rules regarding your ability to generate your own power on your own property with your own money and connect to the electric grid. Effectively, they want to tax the sun and tax the wind by making it prohibitively expensive and difficult for you to put solar on your roof or a wind turbine on your property. **With HB1320, the utilities tried to take all the benefits of rooftop solar away from customers, fix market prices for the power you generate, and create so many hoops to jump through that rooftop solar and small-scale wind will no longer be a viable option for most customers.**

Victory! HB1320 died as a result of opposition from a wide sector of the population (consumer groups, environmental groups, farmers, churches, the Christian Coalition, solar installers, etc.), **but we fully expect that it will be brought back again next year in the 2016 session of the Indiana General Assembly.**

Utility customers should have the freedom to choose their energy sources!

Stop the monopolies from killing competition and padding their pockets at your expense!

Take Action Now!

Your voice matters! Tell your State Senator and Representative to SUPPORT ENERGY CHOICE by supporting small-scale wind and solar. Tell them to stop shielding monopoly utility companies from competition!

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

Indiana Senate

200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
(317) 232-9400
(800) 382-9467

Indiana House of Representatives

200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
(317) 232-9600
(800) 382-9842

Senate Bill 412: Demand side management

Demand side management is a fancy name for energy efficiency on the customer side (or “demand” side) of the meter. After the State Legislature killed Indiana’s incredibly effective efficiency programs (Energizing Indiana) last year, Gov. Pence promised a strong efficiency bill this year. **Here’s what SB412 does:**



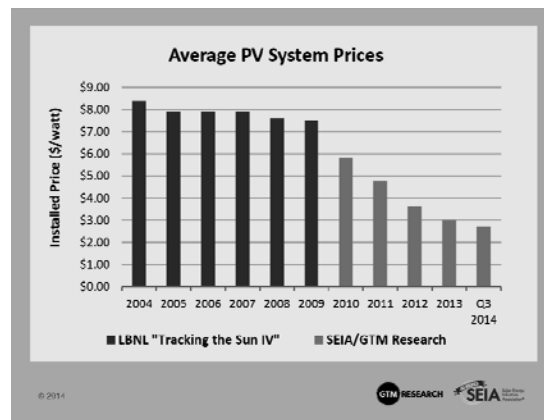
- **Allows the utilities to dictate their own energy efficiency goals and programs as a part of their overall planning process.** Without goals being set in Indiana energy policy, we won’t see many results from the utility efficiency programs. After all, why would they want customers using less of their product?
- **Gives the utilities a lot more money for doing less: limitless lost revenues.** In other words, allows utilities to charge us hundreds of millions of dollars for the energy we didn’t use because of energy efficiency. This allows the monopoly utilities to steal the economic benefit of efficiency from customers.
- **Destroys the cost-effectiveness of efficiency.** When the utilities charge too much for negligible results, energy efficiency is no longer cost-effective. Therefore, the utilities will not have to offer robust energy efficiency programs. What programs they do offer will be far more expensive than they should be. This will effectively price energy efficiency out of the Indiana marketplace.
- **Gives utilities “incentives” for efficiency programs without defining what that means.** This is especially outrageous since the utilities are allowed to set their own goals, therefore they will be allowed to establish when they deserve an “incentive”. This will add even more unnecessary cost to the programs and effectively allows the utilities to reward themselves for underperformance.

SB412 is so bad, Hoosiers would be better off without any bill at all. Gov. Pence signed SB412 into law in May 2015.

House Bill 1320: Generation of electricity by distributed generation

Distributed generation primarily refers to small-scale solar and wind. The utilities are attacking rooftop solar and small-scale wind because it allows us to compete with them. They are monopolies and they see any type of competition as a threat. They want our State Legislators to protect them from ANY competition, especially the kind that allows us to keep our money in our own pockets. **Here’s what HB1320 would have done:**

- **Kill net metering.** Net metering allows you to generate electricity and get credited for the excess power that you send to the grid at the same price that you pay the utility for it. HB1320 allows the utilities to credit you at a rate that is about 75% less than what you pay them for electricity.
- **Allowed the utilities to charge a monthly fee for rooftop solar and small-scale wind.** The utilities will be allowed to impose a “tax” just because you invested your money to generate your own electricity on your own property.
- **Allowed the utilities set their own interconnection rules.** They will throw up as many roadblocks as they can to make it as difficult as possible for you to connect your solar panels to the grid. And by allowing them to write their own rules, they will undoubtedly include a charge just for connecting your system to the grid, making it far too expensive. This is how they kill competition.
- **Priced customer-owned small-scale solar and wind out of the market.** By setting their own rules and prices, utilities will make customer-owned solar and wind so unaffordable that nobody will be able to do it. Additionally, while the bill may enable leasing of rooftop solar in Indiana, by imposing a monthly “tax” and reducing the amount you are credited, leasing will not be economical – making the lease provision nothing more than window dressing.
- **Under-valued the energy generated by rooftop solar and small-scale wind.** The bill would place into law that rooftop solar and small-scale wind have no more value than the costs utilities avoided by not burning fossil fuels or purchasing the power on the market. It is well established in other states that the value of solar exceeds the costs and that rooftop solar provides numerous benefits to the customers, the grid and the utilities. This bill would allow the utilities to ignore these benefits and credit you less than market value for the power you send to the grid.



HB1320 died as a result of opposition from a wide sector of the population, but we fully expect that it will be brought back again next year in the 2016 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Tell your State Senator and Representative to stop shielding monopoly utility companies from competition!