

2019

## Indiana General Assembly Report

### *Week Eleven*

The eleventh week of the legislature saw a heightened pace with budget discussions and presentations now occurring in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The Senate Environmental Affairs Committee met to discuss [House Bill 1266](#) which is a poor excuse for an environmental protection bill and is focused on sediment and erosion control in construction sites. The bill's author is Representative Doug Miller (R-Elkhart). We presented testimony in support of the lead subject matter expert, Indira Frank with Hoosier Environmental Council—[their brief is available here](#).

We gathered in a packed Committee Room to appear before the Senate Utilities Committee this week, chaired by Senator Jim Merritt (R-Indianapolis). The Committee heard testimony but took no vote on Representative Ed Soliday's [House Bill 1470](#). HB 1470 further protects monopoly utility profits in state code, and acts as a follow up bill to a controversial 2013 bill, [Senate Enrolled Act 560](#). For more on HB1470 head [here](#). Our Kerwin Olson and Jennifer Washburn spoke in favor of ratepayers during the hearing.

On Thursday, the [House voted to approve Senate Bill 4](#), authored by Sen. Ed Charbonneau (R-Valparaiso). This bill addresses Indiana's significant needs related to our water and wastewater infrastructure. We've supported this bill throughout the legislative process.

### **Upcoming Next Week**

- We are preparing for a hearing on the "anti-protest bill," [Senate Bill 471](#), a bill that's based on American Legislative Exchange Council model legislation that's designed to chill free speech. While a formal hearing has not been announced, we are working on information that the bill will be heard Monday.

### **A Reminder**

To follow these bills in real time, make sure you follow us on [Twitter](#). We tweet throughout the week as to the progress of bills we mention in our reports and on our own Indiana General Assembly Bill Watch [website](#).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lindsay Haake & Kerwin Olson