

If you haven't already, please sign up for the Legislator Accountability Project!

Scan this QR code to visit citact.org/evv-lap-signup to sign up for the project, so we can communicate with you and share specific information about your legislators:



CenterPoint/Evansville Legislator Accountability Project

October 16, 2025



Agenda

- Goals of This Project
- Talking Points: Problems and Solutions
- Preparing to Meet Your Legislators
- Group Breakout Session
- Setting up Meetings & Following Up
- Q&A

Introductions

Kelly Hamman

Director of Development
Citizens Action Coalition
khamman@citact.org

Kerwin Olson

Executive Director
Citizens Action Coalition
kolson@citact.org

Dano Davenport

Organizer
Citizens Action Coalition
ddavenport@citact.org

Ryan Stratman

Organizer
Citizens Action Coalition
rstratman@citact.org

Citizens Action Coalition

- **CAC is a nonprofit consumer & environmental advocacy organization**
- Since our inception in 1974, we've helped to save Hoosiers over **\$10 billion** in excess utility charges.
- We advocate for affordable **utility rates, a cleaner environment, and a stronger democracy.**
- We litigate cases at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), lobby at the Indiana General Assembly, and help communities get organized

Regulatory advocacy



Legislative advocacy



Grassroots organizing



Goals of the Project

PROJECT GOALS

■ Build relationships with your legislators

- Respectful dialogue that stays focused on utility affordability
- Do not make things personal or partisan

■ Humanize this issue

- Legislators hear a lot from lobbyists - they need to hear from you!
- Utility affordability is a complex topic - legislators may be learning a new perspective

■ Advocate for policy solutions

- Set realistic expectations - policies designed to protect the public that aren't pushed by monied special interests can take years to adopt

■ Learn as we go and replicate this project across the state

- We have decades of advocacy experience, however this is a new project for us
- We want to learn from you all and replicate this process in other areas
- Thank you for your patience as we iron out the details!

Talking Points: Problem and Solution

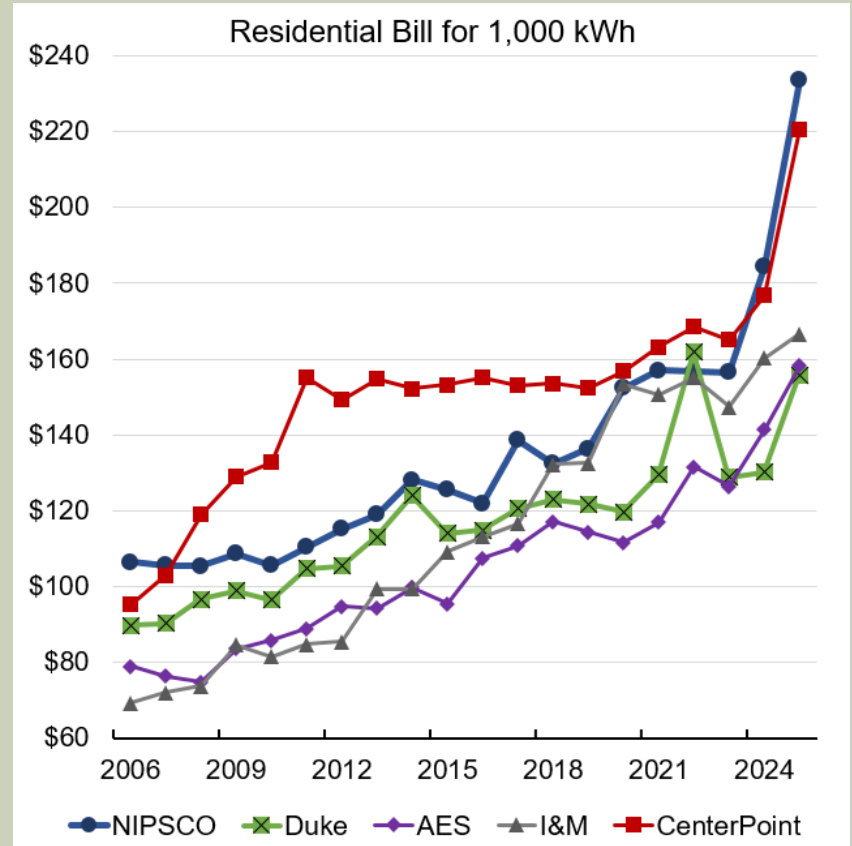
Important Points

- There is no magic bullet policy solution that will fix everything
- There are multiple contributing factors to high utility bills. This campaign is designed to keep legislators focused on what they can control: legislation at the Indiana Statehouse



Explaining the problem

- Utilities have used their power and influence to secure legislation that has drastically tipped the scales in their favor, causing our bills to increase dramatically
- 15 anti-consumer bills passed by the Indiana Statehouse in the last two decades
- Monopoly utilities have imposed the most severe electric bill increases on residential customers in at least two decades



Anti -Consumer Legislation

Trackers - “Backdoor Deregulation”

- Tracker legislation passed by the Indiana Statehouse allows utilities to recover costs on an annual, semi-annual or quarterly basis
- Trackers reduce risk to CenterPoint, but raise your rates with little or no oversight
- Before trackers, utilities had to manage their costs between cases. Because of trackers utilities have not incentive to control costs

Legislation that has increased your bills:

citact.org/legislative-rate-hikes

Construction Work in Progress



"CWIP" allows utilities to charge ratepayers for power plants while they are under construction, before they are producing any electricity, and even if they NEVER produce any electricity. SEA29 (2002), SEA271 (2022), HEA1421 (2023), SEA423 & SEA424 (2025)

Transmission & Distribution Legislation



"TDSIC" gives utilities more profit to keep up the maintenance of their system - an obligation they were already under and should not receive extra profit for performing. This effectively provides CenterPoint a blank check courtesy of ratepayers. SEA560 (2013), HEA 1470 (2019), HEA1420 (2023)

Reducing the IURC's Authority



The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission is the regulatory body for Indiana's investor-owned utilities. Indiana legislators have stripped away much of the IURC's authority to make decisions that promote fair utility bills. SEA 251 (2011), HEA1417 (2023), SEA 9 (2023), HB1007 (2025)

Example of Trackers Raising Your Bills

Transmission, Distribution, Storage Improvement Charge (TDSIC) Tracker enabled through SEA 560 (2013) and expanded through HEA 1470 (2019) allows CenterPoint to gold plate their infrastructure at your expense:

- CenterPoint's 7-year TDSIC Plan (2017 - 2023): **\$446.5 million**
- CenterPoint's 5 year TDSIC Plan (2024 - 2028): **\$454 million**
 - This will result in a ***\$15/month rate hike*** by 2028
 - This is in addition to the ***\$26/month base rate increase*** IURC approved in February 2025

Stifling Consumer Protections & Energy Independence

Monopoly utilities have blocked pro-consumer bills from receiving a hearing and stifled solar and energy efficiency

- SEA 309 (2017) phased out net metering in Indiana, making it more difficult for Hoosiers to benefit from rooftop solar
- SEA 340 (2014) killed Energizing Indiana, an effective statewide energy efficiency program with energy savings goals
- Pro-consumer & community solar bills have been authored but have not received hearings

Advocating for Solutions

Ask #1: Be A Consumer Champion!

- Vote no on anti-consumer legislation and work to convince other legislators in their caucus to do the same
- Share the experiences of your constituents at every available opportunity - elected officials from other areas of the state need to understand the challenges faced by folks in Southwest Indiana
- CenterPoint customers need and deserve an advocate - we can't afford any more rate hikes!

Advocating for Solutions

Ask #2: Repeal Anti-Consumer Legislation

- Reverse the extreme expansion of trackers that is causing unnecessary increases in our electric bills
- Restore statewide energy efficiency programs and net metering for rooftop solar to give customers more control over their energy use and some independence from monopoly greed

Advocating for Solutions

Ask #3: Support Commonsense Consumer Protections

- Utility service is essential to living a safe, healthy life. We need policies that protect Hoosiers struggling to get by:
 - Expanding disconnection protections (summers, weekends, and holidays)
 - Allowing low-income assistance programs
 - Prohibiting punitive late fees & interest
 - Reducing and/or eliminating deposits
- Strengthen public accountability of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) and Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)
 - At minimum, folks on the IURC and the head of the OUCC should be confirmed by one or both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly
 - Even better: these positions should be directly elected by the public

Preparing to Meet with Your Legislators

Things to consider before your meeting

■ Remember our goals: building a relationship with your legislator & humanizing the issues

- Legislators hear plenty from lobbyists, they need to hear your story!
- Stay calm and respectful during your meeting to facilitate relationship-building.

■ Keep it short and simple

- Legislators need to know why you care about this issue, they don't need to be overwhelmed with an exhaustive list of bill numbers and statistics

■ Stay focused on the issue at hand

- If your conversation pivots to another topic, redirect the conversation back to our priority: affordable utility service for CenterPoint customers

3 Part Structure of Your Conversation

■ Introduction

- Break the ice by sharing a bit about yourself and why you care about affordable CenterPoint bills.

■ Explain the Problem

- Keep legislators focused on what they can control: legislation passed by the Statehouse
- Utilities have used their power and influence to secure legislation that has drastically tipped the scales in their favor, causing our bills to increase dramatically

■ Advocate for Solutions

- Make a clear ask for your legislator to take action

Tips for a Productive Meeting

■ Be Yourself & Be Proud!

- You are advocating for much-needed change for yourself and your community
- Keep your thoughts positive and your expectations realistic

■ Be Prepared to Pivot Back to the Issue

- The legislator may try highlight certain votes they cast, give their own talking points, or pivot completely. The rebuttals and talking points we provide will help you redirect the conversation

■ Make a Clear Ask

- We are asking 3 things of legislators: to be a consumer champion, to repeal anti-consumer legislation, and to support common sense consumer protections. Be clear and direct about what you're asking from them.

Breakout Session

The goal of the breakout session is to flesh out your thoughts and connect with others

■ **Materials for the breakout session:**

- Worksheet to help you collect your thoughts
- Legislator biography and voting record
- Talking points and rebuttals

■ **During the breakout session:**

- Review the worksheet and make notes to yourself
- Share your thoughts with members of your group
- Pick a leader to report back to the larger group with key takeaways

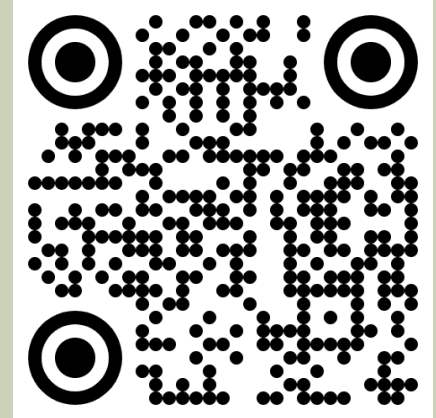
Setting Up Meetings & Following Up

How to set up your meeting

- Each legislator has a Legislative Assistant who handles meeting requests. Some legislators may prefer to meet via Zoom - that's ok!
- We understand that you are busy and we are sure you understand that legislators are busy as well. Remain as flexible as possible with scheduling your meeting
- If you do not receive a response, it may be necessary to follow up via email and more phone calls

Resources & Next Steps

- Visit citact.org/evv-lap to access all of the printed materials from today's meeting and additional resources.
 - This will include a form for you to fill out after you meet with your legislators to share information about your experience.
 - Keep your ear out for any other rebuttals or comments from legislators that we should incorporate into future materials!
- If you run into any questions or would like additional support, please contact Ryan Stratman:
 - Email: rstratman@citact.org
 - Direct Line: (317) 550-0933 (call or text)
- **Thank you so much for your participation!!** The more we do this across the state, the more momentum we will gain. We sincerely appreciate your help as we learn and grow this project.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS