The legislature reached a fever pitch this week with the House 3rd Reading deadline last Monday and the Senate 3rd Reading deadline on last Tuesday. Each chamber found themselves working through extensive calendars with hours of debate each session day. As a reminder, bills must be voted upon on these deadline days or the bill fails to advance to the opposite chamber and is considered “dead.” Many controversial bills died on the calendar, meaning they were listed on the daily calendars but weren’t called down by the bill author and received no further discussion, nor a vote.

Of course, our work focused on the coal bailout bill, House Bill 1414 as it awaited deadline on Monday. Wide opposition continued and while the Indiana Energy Association is now listed as neutral on the bill, the Indiana Manufacturers Association joined us in opposition to the bill along with the National Taxpayers Union, Advanced Energy Economy, American Conservation Coalition, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club, Hoosier Environmental Council, and the Indiana State Conference of the NAACP. Although the bill was amended, the amendment did nothing to change the broad opposition to the bill. Despite this large coalition of opposition, the bill passed 52-41.
KEEPPING LEAD OUT OF OUR KIDS' WATER

Eradicating lead from Hoosiers' water has always been a priority for Sen. Lonnie Randolph (D-East Chicago) and his Senate Bill 214, calling for mandatory lead testing of Lake County Schools, received wide support in the Senate last Monday. We are hopeful the bill will be transformed into a statewide bill much like Rep. Carolyn Jackson’s House Bill 1265 which is also awaiting committee placement in the Senate.

UPCOMING THIS WEEK

- We are awaiting news of which committee will receive the Coal bailout bill, House Bill 1414.
- We are also awaiting news of committee placement for House Bill 1337 which would improve reporting protocols to downstream water users of toxic chemical spills. This bill is especially critical in the Northwest Indiana Region where discharges from industry into Lake Michigan and inland waterways have been rampant. More about the issue here.

COAL BAILOUT

Click here to email your legislators about the coal bailout bill, House Bill 1414.

Have you updated your social networks regarding House Bill 1414, the coal bailout bill? Use the hashtag #NoCoalBailout and make sure you link here so folks can email their state legislators.

PAYDAY LENDING

Payday lending is an economic travesty that preys on vulnerable Hoosiers. Take action now and call your Congressperson regarding HR5050 which will protect consumers! This legislation would extend the 36% APR cap in the Military Lending Act to all consumers.

Rep Visclosky: (202) 225-2461
Rep Walorski: (202) 225-3915
Rep Banks: (202) 225-4436
Rep Baird: (202) 225-5037
Rep Brooks: (202) 225-2276
Rep Pence: (202) 225-3021
Rep Carson: (202) 225-4011
Rep Bucshon: (202) 225-4636
Rep Hollingsworth: (202) 225-5315

Sample call script: “I’m calling to ask Rep XXX to cosponsor HR 5050, the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act. This bill is important to me because 88% of Hoosiers support a 36% APR cap on small loans. Please ask Rep XXX to let me know how he/she plans to vote on this piece of legislation.”

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OUR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

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