

Sample letter

Date _____

The Honorable _____
Indiana House of Representatives (or Indiana State Senate)
200 West Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Representative (or Senator) _____,

I am writing you because I am very concerned about global warming. As a state legislator, you can help the environment and create jobs in Indiana by supporting the renewable electricity legislation.

Weather is always variable with ups and downs, but the preponderance of evidence shows that global warming is happening and it is very real. Industry funded skeptics have successfully cast doubt on the issue in the US, making many people think global warming is not serious. In fact, global warming seems more serious than originally thought, because the far north is warming quickly, as snow-less ground and unfrozen sea absorb more heat. Unfortunately, as the permafrost thaws, the global warming gases trapped in it are released. It is thought that there is a tipping point at which the northern hemisphere could be thrown into an ice age if the ocean current system shuts down from too much fresh melt water from the far north.

People can only do so much to fight global warming on their own. There are some improvements only government can help with. Renewable electricity standards for electric utilities are a very valuable way for the Indiana State Legislature to help Indiana and the earth. Representative Don Lehe's proposal of a 2% increase in required green electricity per year from 2009 up to 10% in 2010 is a good one. Many electric utilities in Indiana already sell green electricity, though NIPSCO isn't one of them. They are listed at: www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/buying/buying_power.shtml?state=IN. Surprisingly, much of Indiana is moderately good for wind energy, which is also a way for farmers to supplement their income. Twenty other states have already adopted renewable electricity standards. This is something Indiana can do to get in on the renewable energy investment and profit that is happening in these early adopting states. As costs go up for the old fashioned fossil fuel energy sources and costs go down for renewable energy sources with new technology, doing what is good for the planet becomes doing what is good for Indiana's economy.

Please help the renewable electricity standard legislation get passed as a bill at least as strong as the 10% in 2010 proposal. This is very important.

You should know that corn ethanol is an energy and water intensive way of turning food into fuel that has little value in fighting global warming according to the most recent Scientific American report. The real benefit will come from ethanol made from cellulose (from biomass or prairie switch grass).

Sincerely,