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## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BAYH HELPS NUCLEAR AND COAL INDUSTRIES BUT HURTS INDIANA'S JOB PROSPECTS**

By helping to weaken an energy bill that passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee today, Sen. Evan Bayh has hindered an opportunity to create thousands of clean energy jobs in Indiana.

Bayh initially voted to remove a Renewable Energy Standard (RES) from the bill altogether, and then proposed or voted for numerous amendments that weakened the standard to such a point that it will not result in any new clean energy or jobs. A strong RES would create thousands of new jobs in Indiana. A report recently issued by the Blue Green Alliance, a coalition of labor and environmental organizations, showed that Indiana could produce almost 40,000 manufacturing jobs with a requirement of 25 percent renewable energy by 2025. Instead, the committee bill would only require a 15 percent RES by 2021, which effectively could mean that utilities would get only 10.7 percent or less of their energy from renewable sources in 12 years, according to an analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Worse, Bayh offered a successful amendment to the bill that would return so-called “alternative compliance payments” from utilities who fail to comply with the RES to the states, so utilities could opt out of renewable energy entirely and states could simply refund the payments to the utilities or pay for nuclear reactors or new coal-burning plants instead.

“With his amendments and votes in Committee, Sen. Bayh chose to weaken the renewable energy standards in the bill and supported dirty energy interests in Indiana rather than clean energy advocates,” said Steve Francis, co-chairperson of the Hoosier Chapter. “We are very discouraged that he hasn’t met with and listened to his constituents here who want a 21st century energy economy, not one based upon dirty, 19th century energy sources. It is our hope that we can meet directly with Sen. Bayh in the near future,” Francis added.

“Sen. Bayh hasn’t helped Indiana workers with his votes on the energy committee,” said Bowden Quinn, conservation program coordinator for the Hoosier Chapter. “He’s just helping his friends in the coal and nuclear industries and the utilities.”

The Sierra Club opposes the Senate energy bill in its current form. However, it will work to strengthen the bill on the Senate floor. Carl Pope, Sierra Club executive director, said, “We will seek improvements that will allow the bill to actually deliver more clean energy, slash energy waste, create new clean energy jobs, and speed our transition away from dirty coal and oil toward cleaner, cheaper energy sources like wind and solar. We look forward to offering our support to a final bill that achieves these critical goals and lives up to its title.”

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