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**Hoosier Chapter Calls for Stronger Residential Energy Codes to Save Stimulus Funding**

Indiana risks losing between \$60 and \$70 million in federal stimulus money if it doesn't update its residential building energy code. The Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter calls on the Indiana legislature and Gov. Mitch Daniels to modernize the state's outdated energy codes to make sure that federal funds begin flowing into the state to help us make our homes and commercial buildings more energy efficient.

House Bill 1348, passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 91-0 on Feb. 17, would require the state Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission to adopt the most recent energy code for commercial buildings by July 1, 2010. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ryan Dvorak, originally included a requirement to update the code for residential buildings which was removed in the House Environmental Affairs Committee.

The chapter is asking Sen. Beverly Gard, the bill's Senate sponsor, to amend the bill so that it will include residential buildings.

"Making our homes and other buildings more energy efficient is the quickest, easiest way to lower utility bills," said Bowden Quinn, the chapter's conservation program coordinator.

ICF International, an energy consulting firm, estimates that implementing the most recent residential energy code in Indiana could save homeowners more than \$220 a year.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act appropriates \$3.1 billion for the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program, which provides grants and funding to state energy offices for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. However, the law requires that state governors certify that their state energy codes meet the most recent code requirements for energy efficiency. Indiana's currently has an energy conservation code adopted in 1992.

"We call on Gov. Daniels and the state legislature to require that our energy codes are updated as quickly as possible so Indiana property owners can take advantage of the millions of federal dollars that are available to make their homes and buildings more energy efficient," Quinn said.

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