As Hoosiers we pride ourselves on being a manufacturing leader, in part due to our low cost of energy. With the rising cost of fossil fuels, it’s time for Indiana to get in the game and create jobs, protect Hoosier families, and secure a stronger future for our state by investing in clean, renewable energy. If Indiana is going to compete to build a 21st century economy, we need to move beyond aging, outdated forms of energy and truly commit to clean energy like wind, solar, and energy efficiency.

**Indiana Is Falling Behind the Race to a Clean Energy Future**

While our Midwestern neighbors are charging forward and reaping the benefits of an economy powered by clean energy, Indiana continues to drag its feet. Our state’s failure to invest in renewable energy is costing Indiana families new job opportunities, tying ratepayers to old and expensive power plants, and threatening a stable and secure economic future for us all.

While states like Iowa are getting over 25% of their electricity from wind energy, Indiana relies on aging, outdated coal-fired power plants for more than 80% of our power. Indiana has enough wind potential to meet our electricity needs four times over, yet we generate less than 3% of our power from wind.

Regional neighbors like Michigan and Ohio are creating jobs and protecting ratepayers by investing in clean, renewable energy. According to a report from the Solar Foundation, Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, and Kentucky all have stronger solar industries with more jobs per capita than Indiana. Michigan and Ohio have six times more solar jobs than Indiana and rank in the top 10 nationally.

A 2012 report from the Michigan Public Service Commission found that the clean energy sector had spurred $100 billion in economic activity and fueled strong job creation in the region. In fact, Michigan’s clean energy industry was

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**Quick facts on wind energy in Indiana**

- Indiana currently ranks 13th for installed wind energy capacity, (1544 MW)*
- Indiana has the potential capacity to produce four times Indiana’s current energy needs.*
- Wind energy represents $3.3 billion in capital investments in Indiana.*
- There are 21 Wind Energy manufacturers in Indiana.*
- $4,600,000 annually to farmers

*SOURCE: INDIANA PROFILE, AMERICAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION, WWW.AWEA.ORG
the only sector of the economy that grew from 2005 to 2008. The cost of a new renewable energy project is now cheaper than a new coal-fired power plant in the state.

**CLEAN ENERGY WORKS FOR INDIANA**

Whether it’s a school in Francesville, a farm outside Columbus or an airport in Indianapolis, Hoosiers are excited about the benefits of investing in clean energy. Despite little support from our public officials, we’re already seeing the potential that renewable energy could have for Indiana.

In 2013, Indiana added 1,000 solar jobs according to a report by the Solar Foundation. Indiana now ranks 25th for solar energy jobs. Right now, Indiana allows utility customers to save money by installing solar panels on your home (known as net metering) and some utilities offer cash back programs to buy the energy from solar panels on your property (known as a Feed in tariff).

In the first year of Indiana’s state energy efficiency program, Hoosiers saved $2 for every $1 invested in building and home efficiency upgrades. Unfortunately our public officials are cancelling the successful statewide program at the end of 2014. The end of this program means the 1500 jobs created through energy efficiency in Indiana are now at risk.


We need a plan to empower Hoosiers with the tools they need to power Indiana forward.

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