House Bill 1320, sponsored by Rep. Eric Koch, R-Bedford, would drive up the cost of rooftop solar and small-scale wind energy in Indiana, allowing monopoly utilities to continue their control of Hoosiers’ energy choices. **This bill is designed to make rooftop solar more expensive, rig the game in favor of electric utility control, and restrict our freedom to generate our own electricity.**

HB 1320 is not fair to current or future owners of rooftop solar and small-scale wind, and threatens to drive up costs for all ratepayers—not just those who own solar.

**HB 1320 WOULD:**
- Increase red tape and add new monthly charges and up-front connection fees for rooftop solar and small-scale wind, making these energy choices more burdensome and expensive at a time when solar prices are falling and becoming more affordable for everyone.
- Give special privileges to large business and industrial customers, who would not have to pay these new costs or fees if they want to generate their own electricity.
- Allow utilities to increased fixed monthly charges for all customers, not just those with rooftop solar and small-scale wind.

Hoosiers should have freedom to choose how to power their homes and businesses. Utilities should not be allowed to stifle the growth of affordable, homegrown clean energy solutions like rooftop solar.

**HB 1320 Restricts Hoosier Freedom and Liberty**

By driving up the costs of rooftop solar, HB 1320 is restricting choices for Hoosiers who want to reduce their energy bills. Claims about rooftop solar should be based on facts and a full study of actual data, not unsubstantiated claims by utilities that they want to prevent a problem that doesn’t exist. States that have looked at the costs and benefits of rooftop solar power—like Nevada and Mississippi—have found more benefits than costs. In other words, rooftop solar owners were paying more than their fair share to support the electric grid, not less.\(^1\)\(^2\)

HB 1320 would create different rules on rooftop solar for each Indiana utility. A rooftop in Fort Wayne is no different than a rooftop in Evansville. Homeowners in all Indiana communities should have equal access to solar opportunities.

Solar businesses should have the freedom to provide energy choices to Hoosiers. Our state’s solar industry should be allowed to compete fairly in the free market, but utility companies are fighting free enterprise by trying to control who can sell and own solar in Indiana.

**HB 1320 Is Not Fair to Rooftop Solar Owners**

Rooftop solar owners should be compensated fairly for the power they generate AND for the benefits they bring to the grid.

Rooftop solar owners are generating power when energy demand is the highest in the middle of the day. Utilities are then “selling” that electricity to neighboring homes and businesses at the full retail rate—yet they want to
give rooftop solar owners less than retail credit for the extra power they generate. Utilities shouldn’t be allowed to make a profit off solar panels they didn’t pay for.

Rooftop solar owners can and should pay their fair share, but what’s fair should be based on facts and a full study by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission of both costs and benefits.

No one has provided any proof that rooftop solar is harming other customers in Indiana. If there is evidence, let the experts at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission take a look and report back to the General Assembly. What is the rush to rewrite utility law based on the false claims of utility executives?

**BENEFITS OF ROOFTOP SOLAR**

Clean energy like rooftop solar is creating jobs and new opportunities for Indiana, protecting our air and water, and powering our economy.

- Solar jobs are growing nationwide at more than 20 times the national average for other jobs. Solar companies employ more than 173,000 Americans. We need more of those jobs in Indiana.

- Customer-owned generation, like rooftop solar, reduces electricity lost over the wires — an important benefit on hot, sunny days when electricity is at peak demand and utilities must work hard to keep electricity flowing.

Rooftop solar panels have become popular across the country in recent years, as lower prices and new leasing options have made it possible for everyday homeowners, businesses, and city governments to go solar. The result has been lower energy bills, thousands of good-paying local jobs in our communities, and more benefits to our communities through energy choice.

We should be encouraging more rooftop solar development and expanding access so all ratepayers can afford to have solar power.

**Protect Freedom and Fairness for All Indiana Customers.** Let’s protect energy choice and free markets. It’s time for Indiana lawmakers to stand up to the power grab by Indiana’s electric utilities. Indiana needs to stand for energy freedom and energy savings by supporting homegrown rooftop solar.

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**ENDNOTES**

