



**Association of Indiana Counties**

**Indiana Association of County Commissioners**

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The Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) and Indiana Association of County Commissioners (IACC) are opposed to HB 1381, preempting local control for the siting of wind and commercial solar projects. The AIC and IACC are not opposed to renewable energy. In fact, we are supportive of allowing counties to do net metering for electricity generation as proposed in HB 1394. For some rural counties, renewable energy projects have created higher tax revenue and funding for critical capital projects.

Indiana counties have taken steps to implement renewable energies in the past several years. According to the Clean Grid Alliance, Indiana presently ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation for installed renewable wind energy capacity. According to the *Clean Grid Alliance* “Indiana has an impressive [2,317 megawatts \(MW\)](#) on line. That’s enough wind to power nearly 569,400 homes. There are 232 MW under construction and another 900 MW in advanced development.”

According to the website *Hoosiers for Renewable Energy*, Indiana currently has nearly 1,400 wind towers operating in the state. There are over 30 commercial solar facilities in operation with another 30 under consideration. These facilities were created after public notices and public hearings allowing local citizens to have input into the planning and zoning process. County officials were able to negotiate safeguards and economic development benefits for their community.

We are opposed to HB 1381 because it removes a county’s ability to negotiate on behalf of the community. Also, the bill negates the ability to develop long term, compatible land uses crafted through local public meetings. If HB 1381 is enacted, wind and solar companies will be able to install projects that meet state standards but may conflict with future economic development projects, planned residential development or even road expansions. Commercial and industrial projects can reduce the value of a neighbor’s property so the decision about where these projects are located should be made at the community level.

We ask for your support in allowing local governments to continue having meaningful control over renewable energy siting standards. Please oppose HB 1381 and protect local government’s authority to set standards for renewable energy facilities that meets a community’s unique goals.

Thank you for your consideration.