

VOTE **NO** ON STATE SB 309:

In a state that prizes freedom, why would Indiana lawmakers support a bill that would severely undermine the quest for schools, small businesses, homes & congregations to create their own pollution-free solar energy?

SB 309 — even as amended in the House Utilities Committee — would 1.) kill (for new solar panel owners after 7/1/2022) net metering, 2.) could also add new fees for people who want the freedom to produce their own energy, & 3.) would prohibit options that increase the affordability of these systems.

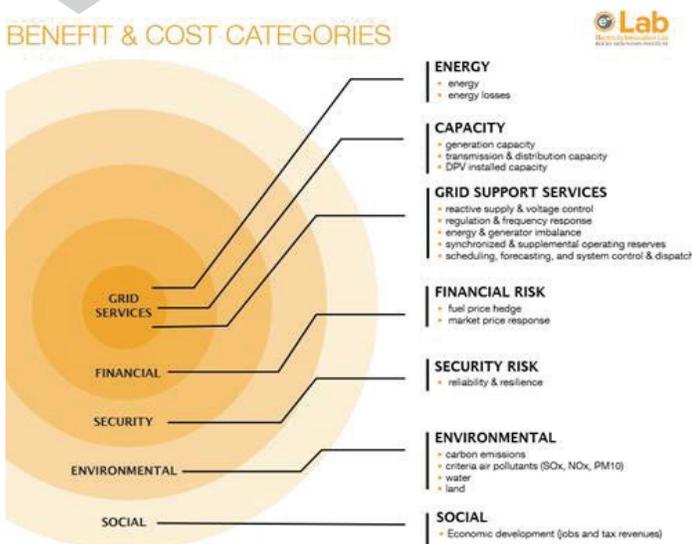
The following three considerations should firm your decision to vote “No” on SB 309:



I. Customer-Owned Solar Energy Benefits the Grid Much More Than it Costs the Grid, Contrary to the Claim Made by Proponents

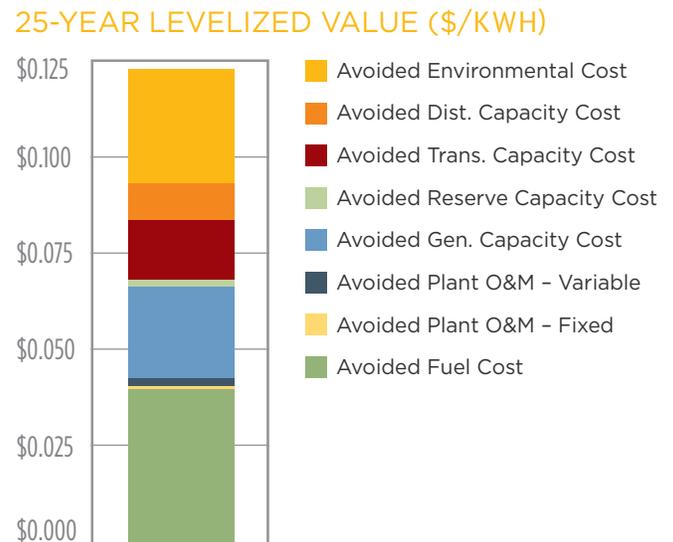
That is why 43 states have adopted “net metering” to provide a fair price for the net value that customer-owned solar energy brings to our electricity grid.

The Qualitative Benefits that Customer-Owned Solar Generation Provides to the Electricity Grid



Source: The Rocky Mountain Institute's analysis of DPV cost-benefit studies.

An Example of How Qualitative Benefits Translate into a Monetary Value for Customer-Owned Solar Generation



II. There are no less than five troubling provisions in SB 309, taking into account amendments in the Indiana House Utilities Committee

- 1 Kill “net metering” for solar energy customer-owned generators who seek to install systems after 2022.
- 2 Allow investor-owned utilities to potentially impose a new fixed fee — on top of the one that applies to all ratepayers who are customers of such electric utilities — on customer-owned solar facilities.
- 3 Create a “caste system” for customer-owned solar energy generators — assigning drastically different values for solar energy depending on whether you install in 2017, between 2017 and 2022, and after 2022.
- 4 Forbid private sector innovations like “virtual net metering” and third-party ownership — which would increase access to customer-owned solar generation to working families, senior citizens, veterans, and more.
- 5 Customer-owned solar generators may be at risk of having to downgrade the crediting that they get from the utility for their excess generation, based on when they expand or replace their solar array.

III. Indiana Jobs and Investment are at Stake

Right now, Indiana’s customer-owned solar generators are just 1,116 Hoosier homes, churches, and businesses “net meter” their homes. We have 45 Indiana companies involved in some aspect of solar energy.

But the opportunity is immense: There are 260,000 jobs in the U.S. solar energy industry. Don’t let SB 309 undermine Indiana’s promise to be a national leader in this industry!

Dated: April 2, 2017.
Contact 317-979-3236 with questions.