Current Wetland Policy in Indiana

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US Army Corps of Engineers Criteria

- Hydrology
- Soil type
- Vegetation
Wetland Functions

- Store 1 – 1.5 million gallons per acre
- Reduce flooding
- Recharge groundwater
- Purify water
- Filter out sediment
- Reduce erosion
- Habitat
50% of Indiana’s species with small or declining populations depend on wetlands.
Drained and destroyed wetlands
More than 85% of Indiana’s original wetlands have been lost
Clean Water Act – federal wetlands

Indiana Isolated Wetlands Law – all non-federal
Bill in 2021 Reduced State Wetland Protection
Final Version of SEA 389

• Removed protection for more than half of state-jurisdictional wetlands

• Eliminated state protection for ephemeral streams

• Created the Indiana Wetlands Task Force
More than 100 organizations openly opposed SEA 389:

- Conservation/Environmental
- Wildlife
- Hunting & fishing
- Civic
- Religious
- Professional
- Cities
Water-related bills in the 2022 Indiana legislative session

• Tax credit for wetland preservation
• Watershed development commissions
• Wastewater utilities
• Construction-in-a-floodway
What can you do?

Talk to your state legislators!
To find your state legislators

Do an internet search for . . .

Indiana find my legislator
Thank you!