



THE HOOSIER ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL'S Report on the 2022 Indiana General Assembly

Improving the Health of Hoosiers

A. Defending our state government's ability to implement tailored solutions to Indiana health, safety, and environmental issues

- 1.) HB 1100: Several sections of this bill reemerged in the final hours of session as part of the HB 1211 conference committee report. But the language that would have stripped state regulators from initiating any rules that are more protective of our health, safety, and environment than the federal government did not advance.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC led an array of public interest organizations to oppose this bill, did extensive organizing, and spoke to a great many lawmakers.

B. Making testing of toxic lead exposure more accessible to infants

- 1.) HB 1313: requires medical providers to offer lead testing for children 9 to 72 months who have not previously been tested.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC testified in favor of the bill in both the House and Senate as well as activated our statewide membership and our coalition partners to support the bill.

C. Preventing further undue industry influence over environmental agency decision-making

- 1.) HB 1063: This bill would have dramatically altered the appeal process by which a trial court reviews the legality of decisions of a state administrative agencies like IDEM and DNR, making it much easier to overturn environmental permitting and enforcement decisions and leading to even more undue industry influence over those decisions.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC sounded the alarm to public interest stakeholders about the dangers of this bill, which were not apparent on its face, contributing to it not being heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Standing Up for a Sustainable Economy

A. Making rooftop solar more accessible

- 1.) HB 1196: strengthens the property rights of prospective solar owners by giving them a pathway by which they can petition their neighbors (in the homeowners association or HOA) for rooftop solar in situations where their HOAs' covenants restrict rooftop solar.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC testified in favor of this bill the House and Senate and activated our statewide network in support.

B. Expanding electric vehicle infrastructure

- 1.) HB 1221: enables Indiana's utilities to establish pilot programs that make electric vehicle charging accessible to school buses, transit buses, and delivery vehicles, and to open the market for EV charging stations to more private developers.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC testified in favor of the overall bill in the Senate, though we opposed a Committee amendment that would prohibit the sale of EV charging services sourced from on-site, customer-owned renewable power.

C. Opposing legislation that would advance an inadequately vetted carbon storage project

- 1.) HB 1249 and SB 265: Had either of these companion bills passed, they would have provided unwarranted legal protection from liability for harm that may be caused by a controversial carbon sequestration project in Terre Haute that has not adequately disclosed environmental, health, and property risks.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC testified against the bills in both the House and Senate and rallied our supporters to successfully oppose the measures.

D. Safeguarding the growth of Indiana's largest transit network

- 1.) SB 369: This bill would have impaired IndyGo's bus rapid transit expansion plans, needlessly limiting the ongoing improvement of bus service in Indianapolis.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC was one of several key statewide organizations who joined multiple local organizations to push back against this policy measure through engagement of lawmakers and our supporters.

Protecting Land and Water

A. Protecting Communities from a Dam Break

- 1.) SB 269: Although this bill will reduce the number of low and significant hazard dams under state jurisdiction, it will impose a new requirement that high hazard dams write emergency action plans.
- 2.) Our impact: HEC testified on this bill in both the House and Senate, pressed for improvements to the bill, and activated our supporters.

Bills that HEC and allies opposed that, nevertheless, advanced:

- A. SB 271, will help pave the way to small modular nuclear reactors, an extremely costly approach to cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and will saddle electric customers with the cost whether or not the facility ever produces electricity. HEC and our allies are calling on the governor to veto this short-sighted measure.

Bills that HEC was involved in advocating but did not ultimately advance:

- A. **Wake boarding legislation**, which would have protected our lakes from some of the most environmentally damaging aspects of wake boats, SB 187; passed in the Senate but stalled in the House.
- B. **Climate legislation**, which would have established a first ever climate task force in the Indiana General Assembly, SB 255; denied a hearing.
- C. **Coal ash legislation**, which would have barred coal ash from leaching into groundwater resources, SB 412, HB 1335; both denied a hearing.
- D. **Rooftop solar legislation**, which would have made rooftop solar systems more affordable, HB 1304 and SB 248; denied a hearing.
- E. **Wetlands legislation**, which would give a property tax break to landowners who safeguard their wetlands; denied a hearing.

Updated on March 11, 2022