Thank you, Chairman Niemeyer and members of the Committee, for giving the Hoosier Environmental Council an opportunity to voice our support for SB 335. We are grateful to the Chairman for taking up this important issue; to the authors Senator Yoder, Senator Alting, and Senator Ford; and to co-authors Senator Bassler, Senator Becker, Senator Dernulc, and Senator Qaddoura.

Please Support SB 335, climate solutions task force. This bill deserves your vote.

We begin with a quote from an article discussing the challenges related to reinsurance (insurance for insurers) due to climate change risks, “Although natural variability in the Earth’s climate contributes to much of the fluctuation in extreme weather events seen in recent years, climate attribution science—that is, the research and modelling that seeks to attribute, or not, extreme weather events to human-caused climate change—shows that most of these events (70% in the last 20 years) have been made worse or more likely by climate change (see Carbon Brief’s attribution atlas, updated annually, for a useful summary).”

This was posted online by S&P Global Ratings, a financial credit rating agency and division of S&P Global. Climate change risks are before us and will amplify with time.

Ensuring security and creating an environment where Hoosiers can thrive are the most basic responsibilities of government. Climate change both threatens our security and presents economic opportunity to those willing to address this important issue.

Climate change is commonly associated with threats like more intense storms, flooding, droughts, and wildfires. More specifically to Indiana, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center, now known as the Institute for a Sustainable Future, predicts Indiana will have wetter springs, which will create uncertainty and challenges for our farmers when seeding their crops. Extended drought conditions in the summer and warmer winters allow for new pests to move north which will create additional challenges for farm yields. Indiana should plan and prepare.

According to Purdue’s Indiana Climate Change Impact Assessment, extreme rainfall events have increased markedly since 1990. Increased rainfall and severe storms, combined with more developed land and shrinking wetland protection increase the risk of flooding. According to the National Centers for Environmental Information, past flooding events and extreme storms have

cost Indiana billions of dollars in property damages and lost crop yields. Given Indiana’s history with the great floods of 2008, 1937, and 1913, Indiana should plan and prepare.

Indiana’s economy is already changing as a result of climate change with over $2.5 billion of electric vehicle investments in 2022. Major businesses are demanding renewable energy sources and Indiana must look forward to a shift to manufacturing of electric vehicles and battery technology. There is economic opportunity for states that plan and prepare.

The Hoosier youth who organize Confront the Climate Crisis have shown tremendous leadership and determination to bring the Climate Solutions Task Force bill to the point where it is receiving a hearing. In a study published in The Lancet, a peer review medical journal, around 70% of people aged 16-25 are “extremely worried” or “very worried” about climate change. This concern is reflected in the heavy lift Confront the Climate Crisis has made with SB 335. Indiana youth are asking our legislators, to plan and prepare.

It is now time for leadership in the state legislature on this issue. Momentum is building for this bipartisan bill authored and co-authored by five Republican and two Democratic senators. Groups working behind the scenes to support this issue are ready to offer amendments and address concerns of members of the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee. Pushing this important legislation back another year or years fails to meet the weight of the situation before us. It is time to recognize our challenges and the opportunities that come with it. It is time for Indiana to plan and prepare.

Sam Carpenter
Executive Director
Hoosier Environmental Council

Delaney Barber
Outreach, Energy and Climate Coordinator
Hoosier Environmental Council