



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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Mike Braun
Governor

Clint Woods
Commissioner

To: Katherine Noel
Chair, Indiana State Ethics Commission

William Deane
Ethics Director, Office of the Indiana Inspector General

From: James French
Ethics Officer, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Date: May 28, 2026

Re: Waiver of 42 IAC 1-15-1

FILED

MAY 29 2026

INDIANA STATE
ETHICS COMMISSION

In accordance with 42 IAC 1-5-1(c), as the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) Ethics Officer, I am filing this waiver of the application of the Gift Rule based on the following facts.

Julie Rhodes and Katya Drake are both employees of the State, working in IDEM's Compliance and Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) as Section Chief and Senior Environmental Manager, respectively. CTAP provides confidential assistance to Indiana businesses to help bring them into compliance with IDEM regulations.

Rhodes and Drake were both gifted free registration by the US Green Building Council (the Council) to attend the 2026 Building Resilience in Indiana Transformation Forum (the Forum), which occurred April 24-29, 2026. The address for the Council is 2101 L Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20037. The Forum brought together industry leaders, practitioners, and sustainability professionals to learn and engage around the topic of building and infrastructural resilience within the State.

Specifically, both employees received free event registration - \$110 total.

Though IDEM does not assert that it has a business relationship with the Council, IDEM is nevertheless filing this waiver out of an abundance of caution to avoid any appearance of impropriety.

This waiver of the Gift Rule is consistent with the public interest because Rhodes' and Drake's attendance advances IDEM's mission of working with others in the community and state who are developing best management practices for design and construction. IDEM's pollution prevention program is working to assist entities at every level to consider ways to reduce environmental impacts in cost saving ways.

James French
Ethics Officer
Indiana Department of Environmental Management