



# GOP transition into mass exodus

Holcomb exit was not surprising, but wave of resignations prompted questions, speculation

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – The fact that Indiana Republican Chairman Eric Holcomb wanted to step down less than six months into Gov. Mike Pence’s tenure isn’t really that big a shocker.

When the governor-elect asked him to stay at the helm of the party, Holcomb agreed, with the understanding that it needed continuity through the biennial budget session of the Indiana General Assembly.

“I thought I had graduated,” Holcomb told HPI last January, indicating that he had looked forward to employment in the private sector. But Holcomb expressed admiration for Pence and agreed to stay on.

What was shocking about Wednesday’s mass exodus from the party headquarters was . . . the mass exodus.

Joining Holcomb in heading for the doorway



were Vice Chairwoman Sandi Huddleston, Treasurer Peter Deputy, Executive Director Justin Garrett, and National Committeewoman Becky Skillman.

While multiple sources were quick to tell HPI that the mass migration was not indicative of any widespread dissatisfaction with Gov. Pence or visa versa, the way this occurred could easily be seen as a telltale sign of frustra-

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## Indiana’s diversity trend

By **MAUREEN HAYDEN**  
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS – Like the rest of the nation, Indiana is continuing on a trend toward greater diversity as the numbers of Hispanics, blacks, Asians and other minorities are rising at a faster pace than whites.



New census data released last week also show the trend may accelerate in the years to come as the most racially and ethnically diverse age-group, Hoosiers under 5, grow up.

The new census numbers are snapshot estimates of the population



**“It’s normal to have people serving one governor and then go on to other things. I’m as close to this thing as anybody and I think there’s excellent stability.”**

- Bob Grand, on the Indiana Republican Party



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in July 2012, and come a year after the U.S. Census Bureau reported the nation is undergoing a historic shift. Fueled by immigration and high rates of birth, particularly among Hispanic Americans, the nation's racial and ethnic minorities are growing more rapidly in numbers than whites.

**"This shows** the changing face of Indiana and America," said demographer Matt Kinghorn of the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University.

Indiana, where 81% of the population is white, remains less diverse than the rest of the nation, which is now 63% white.

But a closer look at the racial and ethnic make-up of different age groups signals the shift. While 91% of Hoosiers over 65 are white, just 70% of Hoosier children under 5 are white. And in that 65-and-over group of Hoosiers, less than 2% are Hispanic; of Hoosiers that are 5 and under, 11.4% are Hispanic.

The contrast between the oldest and the youngest Hoosiers also shows up in race. Just shy of 6 percent of Hoosiers 65 and older are black; just over 11% of Hoosiers are 5 are black.

The shift also shows up in the median ages of demographic groups. The median age for whites in Indiana is 40.2 years; it's 31.3 for blacks, 30.6 for Asians, and 24.5 for Hispanics. For Hoosiers identified as bi-racial or multi-racial, the median age is 15.6 years.

**"Indiana is** becoming more diverse from the ground up," Kinghorn said.

That's even more true in the rest of the nation. For the first time, America's racial and ethnic minorities now make up about half of the under-5 age group.

Overall, Indiana's population growth from 2010 to 2012 was sluggish. It went from from 6,483,802 to 6,537,334, up by only eight-tenths of a percent. Between 2011 and 2012, the

population grew only by three-tenths of a percent – the lowest growth rate since the mid-1980s.

Kinghorn attributes that slow growth to the tough economic times in Indiana and the nation after the 2007 recession hit. "It may be the lingering effect of the Great Recession," Kinghorn said.

But the growth of minority populations in Indiana continues on an upward trend seen for more than a decade. And that's significant, Kinghorn said, given Indiana's aging population: "It's very important to Indiana, and to the U.S., as we face a tighter labor market as Baby Boomers head into retirement. Employers would face an even great pinch without the minority populations' growth."

**Indiana economist** Michael Hicks, head of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University, said local communities should embrace the increasing diversity, especially that driven by immigration, as good for growth. Existing employers will need to fill the jobs vacated by retiring workers, while potential employers will also need workers. "For communities all around Indiana, immigration acceptance is important," Hicks said.

Asians are the fastest growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S., now almost 19 million people. That's true in Indiana as well. Of the state's 6.5 million people, only 113,196 are Asian. But that number marks an almost 10% growth just from 2010.

In that same two-year period, from 2010 to 2012, the percent of blacks in Indiana rose by less than 2 percent; the percent of Hispanics rose just short of 6 percent; the number of people identified as more than one race rose by just over 7 percent. ❖

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## **GOP**, from page 1

tion or anger. "Any time you see something as sweeping as this, it's usually a sign that people are pissed off," one GOP source said.

In the minutes following the breaking of this story, there was speculation as to the motive. Some saw it as a sweeping out of the lingering Daniels apparatus. But that could have occurred with Holcomb's resignation – which wouldn't have been that surprising – followed by a more gradual change of the guard.

The resignations were announced after Allen County Republican sources had made a presentation for holding the 2014 Republican Convention in Fort Wayne. A source told HPI that the presenter had perceived a "subdued" committee. After the presenter left, all hell broke loose.

The mass resignations brought a shocked reaction from the Indiana Republican Central Committee, several who were in attendance told HPI. "There was a lot of anger and frustration," one informed source said of the massive shakeup. "There were comments like 'this is more like how the Democrats do things.'"

The high-ranking source told HPI that the state committee was concerned that it not become a "rubber stamp" or an organ like the Indiana Democratic Party turned into during the Evan Bayh era.

But the GOP has been led in the past with a person who had the imprimatur of the governor. Bruce Melchert was chairman, helping Bob Orr with the governorship in 1980. "But Gov. Orr wanted his own guy as chair" and that person became Gordon Durnil, who served as chair from 1981 to 1989, one source told HPI.

"The governor will consult with the committee before making his decision," said the high ranking source.

**An informed and reliable** source speaking on background told HPI that Holcomb had visited with Gov. Pence, informing him of his plans. He decided he wanted to talk to the entire state committee "at one time" instead of having the story break through the media or piecemeal via members. "That was by design," the source said.

The Skillman resignation was "completely coincidental."

Bill Smith, Gov. Pence's chief of staff, told HPI this morning that Holcomb had informed the governor of "a new opportunity" that will be announced soon. "Once that



**GOP National Committeewoman Becky Skillman (top) and Vice Chairwoman Sandi Huddleston announced their resignations right after Holcomb.**

announcement is made, it will provide a lot of clarity," Smith said. "When he told Sandi, she then thought it was a great time to exit as well. It all sort of came down in one fell swoop."

Huddleston reacted angrily to initial reports that she was concerned about the party's shift to social conservatives. She told HPI that she had planned to leave and had advised Gov. Pence of her plans. "This is something he knew about," Huddleston said, adding that sources saying she was upset with social conservatives in the party were wrong. Pence had asked her to stay on along with Holcomb. Huddleston plans to remain at chair of the Johnson County GOP.

**But uber GOP** financier Bob Grand dispelled any notion of a Chinese fire drill. "I don't think there's instability at all," Grand told HPI late Wednesday afternoon. "It's normal to have people serving one governor and then another to go on to other things. I'm as close to this thing as anybody and I think there's excellent stability."

Republican National Committeeman John Hammond III told HPI, "The place is solid with a lot of good leadership."

Asked if a Holcomb resignation in isolation might have conveyed a more stable message, Grand acknowledged, "Intentionality is always best. But then there's always other things that get in the way. It's a timing issue."

Grand added, "It's important to get a good group of people who have a lot of viewpoints and stimulate good debate."

Holcomb said in a statement, "For quite some time now I have been contemplating the next steps in my professional career. With the support of Governor Mike Pence and the confidence that our state party's debts are paid off, we have surpassed our recent fundraising goals, our staff is smaller and more efficient than ever and we've already completed our biggest technological upgrade in a decade, made now the right time. I've had the honor and rare opportunity to serve alongside the leadership of two Republican governors, legislative leaders second to none, the best congressional delegation in the country and local leaders in all 92 counties in the state. This service ranks as one of the best experiences of my life. I have enjoyed giving it my all and yet always realized I received so much more out of the endeavor than I ever invested in it."

**Holcomb explained**, "While there is never a perfect time for these types of transitions, I believe this year, being an off-election year, is the best time. In addition,



and most importantly, these changes will give Governor Mike Pence a wonderful opportunity to charge forward and write our party's next chapter of success. My final day as state chairman will be July 9."

That date allows Holcomb to have his swan song at the annual Republican State Dinner.

Pence reacted to the resignations by saying, "Chairman Eric Holcomb and his team led one of the most successful state party tenures in Indiana history. I am grateful he was willing to stay on, and I thank him for his leadership during the early days of my administration. Eric's selfless service to Indiana and the Republican Party is a big reason why Indiana is the envy of the nation. Eric is a true servant leader who is leaving the party in a strong place. I wish him every success in the next chapter of his career."

Of Huddleston, Pence said, "A tireless worker and an energy that can light up a room, Sandi Huddleston's service to the Indiana Republican Party is truly exemplary. Though she is leaving the party in a formal capacity, Hoosier Republicans know she will continue to be one of our party's strongest advocates."

He added of Skillman, "Hoosiers across the state know Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's incredible devotion to public service. I appreciate her service as RNC committeewoman and know that Becky's commitment to making Indiana a better place for all Hoosiers will continue through her other endeavors."

Sources tell HPI that state party staff did not know about the changes in advance, and Holcomb met with them shortly after the state committee meeting ended.

**Garrett's tenure ends** today and sources said he has a finance job lined up at IU Health. Skillman is CEO of Radius Indiana, a burgeoning lobbying group for about a dozen counties in South Central Indiana. Sources say that she had missed several Central Committee meetings due to her Radius commitments, was planning to move from Bedford to Bloomington, and simply wanted to refocus her professional efforts.

Deputy's resignation was seen as more of a recognition that with the change of the guard, a new chair would want to choose his or her own financial team.

As for the change of the guard, Pence 2012 campaign manager Kyle Robertson will likely take the executive director position.



One potential scenario would have Gov. Pence tabbing Auditor Tim Berry (left), allowing the governor to shape the state ticket where Treasurer Richard Mourdock and Cecelia Coble (right) could battle at the 2014 Republican Convention.

The governor may opt for a part-time chairman and go for a strong fundraiser.

**As for potential re-placements**, the name of Pence aide Chris Crabtree has surfaced, but his father is seriously ill and multiple sources tell HPI he is not interested in the post. Other names who surface naturally include Grand, former legislator and financier Dan Dumezich of Schererville, and former GOP Chairman Jim Kittle Jr., who took control of the party in 2002, paving the way for Daniels' ascension to the governorship.

Grand said that neither he, Kittle or Dumezich are interested.

Grand listed Auditor Tim Berry, Anne Hathaway, Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, former GOP executive director Devin Anderson, Shelby County trial lawyer Lee McNeille, Fred Klipsch, Marion County Republican Chairman Kyle Walker, GOP operative Jennifer Hallowell, former Indianapolis mayor Stephen Goldsmith, Senate Communications Director Lindsey Jancek, former Daniels chief of staff Earl Goode and former deputy chief of staff Betsy Wiley as all worthy of consideration. A Facebook campaign has sprung up pushing House Republican Campaign Committee chief Mike Gentry for the position.

"It does present an opportunity for a woman chair and a male vice chair," Hathaway told the IndyStar. "It's a pretty exciting time for the party." The Indiana GOP has never had a female state chair and only Ann DeLaney has been a female chair of the Democratic Party.

Sources say that Hathaway would probably be more interested in the RNC post, as would Jennifer Ping.

Hallowell has had past campaign experience with David McIntosh, a close Pence friend and ally, has worked with Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard, has worked at high levels in national campaigns, and has strong fundraising ties.

**Smith said the Pence** office "is getting calls from committee members" and said he will "make a recommendation to the committee on who the governor could support. I'm pretty confident we'll have someone people can unite behind."

The Berry suggestion is intriguing. Should he take the chair, that would open up the auditor's office, allowing for Gov. Mike Pence to appoint a replacement, who would then be in place for the 2014 ticket. Currently, Indianapolis Councilman Michael McQuillen, Cecilia Coble and Treasurer Richard Mourdock have expressed interest in running for that position. ❖



## The coming six-month window to repeal Obamacare

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – This past week, U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman made another call for the repeal of Obamacare.

“We need real solutions that empower patients instead of crippling schools,” Stutzman said on the House floor. “Our students deserve the tools they need to succeed and that isn’t possible when Washington puts regulations ahead of achievement. Teachers, mechanics, grocers, farmers, and steel makers—all of them—need an exemption from Washington’s madness. Let’s repeal Obamacare and let educators focus on what’s really important — our kids.”

So the question becomes this: What is the scenario for repealing Obamacare?

The 2010 elections were to be the lash-back at passage that March, and it did bring Republicans into the House majority. But the 2012 election was the so-called “rubber match” and not only did President Obama win reelection, the Democrats held on to the Senate majority. Even if the Republicans had taken Senate majority, they still would have had to meet that insane 60-vote threshold to move legislation.

The cold hard fact is that President Obama (or Vice President Biden) will be in office for the next three and a half years. And at the end of that period, the implementation will be far down the path. Even a Republican president sworn in on Jan. 20, 2017, would be hard pressed to extinguish Obamacare.

**U.S. Rep. Luke Messer**, R-Shelbyville, sees a window in the next six to nine months for repeal. “Why I say that is we’re about to undergo next fall and winter and then next spring, the full blown implementation of Obamacare,” Messer said. “I think this is the last opportunity for the full repeal if there is a public outrage over the next several months.”

This would be a scenario similar to what took place

between July 1988, when President Reagan signed into law Doc Bowen’s catastrophic health plan, and 1989 when public support in the polls fell precipitously, prompting both chambers of Congress to repeal the measure. President George H.W. Bush did not stand in the way.

Stutzman believes there is already a “crescendo” of resistance to Obamacare developing.

**“As Obamacare rolls out** and is implemented, obviously the taxes are already in place, the device tax is already in place. ZimmerUSA is paying several million dollars every two weeks on the tax. That’s hitting jobs and the economy. Now, as the mandates and affects on insurance are being sold to consumers, I think the heat is starting to come. I don’t know if it will happen in the next six months, it may be the next year. The penalty won’t actually take effect in 2015, so it may be some time yet. But I think we’re seeing a crescendo and the consumers will find this isn’t exactly what they thought it would be.”

So Republicans are hoping that a public outcry materializes, and, thus, they are fanning the flames. Stutzman is using the Indiana school district cuts of parttime jobs as a way to do that. “In Indiana, hundreds of parttime workers, including substitute teachers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, and coaches, will face fewer hours and smaller paychecks,” Stutzman said. “It’s not just schools. Back home, many working families tell me more and more employers are making the tough decision to cut back hours, hold back projects, and take a pass on hiring. This administration sold Obamacare as a benefit to hardworking, middle-class Americans but it’s hurting the very families it was designed to



**U.S. Rep. Luke Messer on the House floor.**

help.”

Messer added, “I’ve heard from school systems throughout my district that the impact could be hundreds of thousands of dollars a year or they’ll have to limit time and learning. My hope is that it can be a bipartisan compromise for those who support the bill and those who are against the bill can agree.”

**And that addressed** the other dynamic in play. At one point do Members seeking Obamacare repeal transition to help their constituents navigate the coming changes?

“You have to do both,” Messer said. “I support repeal because I believe that’s the right policy for our country. But I also think we have an obligation to try and limit



the negative impact of the legislation. I will support repeal and efforts to improve the bill. I see nothing inconsistent about that."

This week, he authored a House bill that would exempt school districts, colleges and universities from the insurance mandates for parttime employees.

**U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly**, who said after he voted for the bill in 2010 that changes would inevitably have to be made, introduced a Senate bill doing much the same thing. "Most Hoosiers I know think 40 hours is full time," Donnelly said Tuesday in a statement. "We need to change the definition of a 'fulltime employee' in the Affordable Care Act to bring it in line with what most Americans have traditionally recognized as full time."

Messer pointed to the 2004 Medicare prescription drug law as an example. "Many voted against the prescription drug expansion just a few years back, and yet when that became the law of the land, it became the responsibility of Members of Congress to help folks figure out what the prescription drug choice was for them. Similarly, if we are not successful in repealing this law in the next five or six months, it will be our obligation to help our constituents navigate through the challenges."

Stutzman agreed, but said that the equation is already changing from President Obama's reassurances. "The president said that if you like your health care, you can keep it. That is just not the case for many Americans. Something changed, either premiums have gone up, their employer put them in a parttime situation and they don't have health care at all. It's definitely causing a strain. And I don't think we've seen the full effects of it yet. It's coming. This is the tip of the iceberg here. What happened with Fort Wayne Community Schools was a huge revelation. This isn't affecting smaller businesses. This is going to effect our larger public institutions. I've spoken with Ivy Tech and they are going to be affected by it. This is going to take dollars away from education."

**"I don't think this is where** the American people want to go," Stutzman explained. "People are going to feel the consequences from the health care law and that's when they are going to reengage an demand change."

If there is a popular uprising, does Stutzman favor what U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and others have called a "replace and repeal?"

"If we could do a full repeal and start over, insurance companies would gladly come to the table and find solutions for preexisting conditions. They've already told us, 'Why we weren't doing that before we weren't really sure.'"

Stutzman believes that a "replace" strategy would be to take the government out of it and return to the free markets, such as allowing sales across state lines. ❖

## Coats tells colleagues to 'stop grandstanding'

**By BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – U.S. Sen. Dan Coats has told his "congressional colleagues" to "stop grandstanding" on the NSA, which draws a contrast with others in the Indiana Congressional delegation.

"Last week, Edward Snowden, a National Security Agency contractor, attempted to make a political point by leaking several documents that have seriously harmed America's ability to identify and respond to terrorist threats," Coats writes in a Wall Street Journal op-ed today. "As damaging as Mr. Snowden's disclosures are to public safety, I am also troubled by the decision of several members of Congress to mischaracterize this leak to advance their personal and political agendas."

But U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita essentially did just that in today's editions of the NWI Times. "Why does the government have to possess every one of our phone calls everyday in order to keep us secure?" Rokita asked. "It may be less convenient for them to go get a probable cause warrant or a reasonable suspicion warrant or even issue one themselves and then go to the private-sector possessors of this data. But that is the line. That is what you're supposed to do. You don't just get blanket information on all of us, suspect or not, and then decide whether or not you want to use it."

**U.S. Rep. Luke Messer**, R-Shelbyville, took to the House floor on June 10 and quoted Benjamin Franklin's famous line of those who would trade liberty for security "deserve neither." Messer characterized the government Prism program as one "that should concern every American" and added that they are "understandably skeptical."

Coats addressed citizen concerns, saying, "I don't blame citizens for their concern about these secretive NSA programs. Personal privacy and civil liberties are important to all Americans and are protected by the Constitution. Unfortunately, the Obama administration — especially of late — has fueled people's distrust of government, which has made the reaction to Mr. Snowden's leak far worse. Elected officials have a duty to the American people to engage in an informed and honest debate. So it troubles me that some of my colleagues in Congress are engaging in disingenuous outrage when they were given ample opportunity to learn more, ask questions and even vote against these programs. Mischaracterizing national-security programs for political gain is irresponsible and has the potential to weaken the country's defenses." ❖



## Prison sentencing of 12-year-old prompts new juvenile sentence law

By MAUREEN HAYDEN  
CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS – Three years ago, when 12-year-old Paul Henry Gingerich became the youngest person in Indiana ever sent to prison as an adult, his story gained



international attention and sparked questions about whether children belong behind bars with grownup offenders.

Gingerich, convicted of conspiring to murder a friend's stepfather, remains in prison, awaiting a critical court hearing. But his case has already had a profound impact on how juveniles tried as adults may be

punished.

In late April, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence signed into law a provision that gives judges new sentencing options for children under 18 in the state's criminal courts. It goes into effect July 1. Among other things, it gives judges more discretion to keep young offenders out of the adult prison system and put them instead into juvenile detention facilities where they can be rehabilitated while serving their sentence.

Advocates for the new law included state prison officials, who feared for Paul Gingerich's safety when he was first sent to them in 2010 as an 80-pound sixth-grader who'd never been in trouble.

"No good comes from putting a 12-year-old in an adult prison," said Mike Dempsey, head of youth services for the Indiana Department of Correction.

**In Indiana, children** as young as 10 can be tried as adults. Gingerich was 12 when he was arrested in the shooting death of 49-year-old Phillip Danner of Cromwell, along with Danner's 15-year-old stepson. The defense argued Gingerich had been bullied into the crime by the older teen.

A psychiatrist who evaluated Gingerich said the boy wasn't competent to stand trial as an adult. But a juvenile court judge rejected that opinion and declared both boys were fit to stand trial as adults. An appeals court has since thrown out that ruling.

For years, judges in Indiana have had few options for dealing with juveniles who have committed heinous crimes. They could keep them in the juvenile court system

and order them locked up until they turn 18. Or they could send them into the criminal courts, where the juvenile would be tried and sentenced as an adult.

The new law creates another option called "dual sentencing" that essentially allows a young criminal to be sentenced as both a juvenile and an adult. It allows a judge to send a juvenile convicted as an adult into a state-run juvenile detention center for intensive supervision and treatment until the offender turns 18. Then, at 18, the offender's adult prison sentence is reassessed by a judge who has several options: Send the offender on to prison to serve the criminal sentence, send the offender into a community-based corrections program to transition back into society, or send the offender back home free.

**Andrew Cullen, legislative liaison** for the Indiana Public Defender Council, said the law gives judges a new level of discretion in juvenile matters. "The criminal justice system should never, ever treat a child like it treats an adult," Cullen said. "This law recognizes that."

Until the new law was passed, Indiana was one of only four states that didn't have some version of dual sentencing, also called blended sentencing, for juveniles convicted of serious crimes.

Republican state Rep. Wendy McNamara, an Evansville school administrator who carried the legislation in the Indiana House, said the new law still provides punishment but recognizes that juveniles need to be treated differently than adult offenders.

"We're not letting these kids off the hook," McNamara said. "But the law also says we're not going to lock them up and throw away the key."

McNamara and other supporters of the new law were persuaded in part by DOC numbers that show most juveniles sent to the state's prisons are out within five years.

**"They're kids growing up in prison, being exposed to and influenced by adults who've committed terrible and violent crimes,"** Dempsey said. "The odds of them coming back out a better person aren't good."

Monica Foster, head of the Indiana Federal Community Defenders, and Paul Gingerich's attorney, hailed the new law as a breakthrough for juvenile justice in Indiana. "There's no point in making throwaway children," Foster said. "When we send children into adult prisons, they're just schooled by adult criminals on how to become better criminals."

Whether the new law could apply to Gingerich remains to be seen. Last December, the Indiana Court of Appeals threw out the boy's guilty plea and sentence, saying the juvenile court judge rushed when he waived the case to adult court. The appellate court ordered a new hearing, scheduled for August, to determine if Gingerich should be retried in a juvenile court. ❖



## Sentencing law could benefit juveniles

By MAUREEN HAYDEN

INDIANAPOLIS — Monica Foster is a longtime public defender who's been pushing uphill in the legal system for a long time. So, when she says the General Assembly is making progress protecting the rights of the disenfranchised, it's worth stopping to listen to her.



Foster has praise for a new law set to go into effect July 1 that changes the way juvenile offenders tried in adult court are punished for their crimes.

Called "dual sentencing," it allows state court judges to hand down two sentences, one to be served as a juvenile, the other to be served as an adult.

Under the law, the second is conditional on the first: If a young offender responds well to the intensive supervision and treatment offered in a state prison's juvenile unit, a judge can suspend the adult prison sentence when that offender turns 18 and send him or her home — or into community corrections or another alternative short of prison.

Likewise, if that young criminal proves bad to the bone, the judge can keep him or her locked up.

To borrow someone else's analogy: The idea is to give a young offender just enough rope to pull himself out of a life of crime or to hang himself and wind up in prison.

Minnesota pioneered the idea almost 20 years ago, and most states have followed suit.

"It's a very well-thought-out and well-reasoned law," said Foster, Indiana's chief federal public defender. "Unfortunately, we see too little of that anymore."

**Foster can take some** credit for making it happen — though she didn't when I interviewed her about the new law for a recent story I wrote.

It took some hue and cry from her and other veterans of Indiana's juvenile justice system to get the law passed.

It was Foster who helped call national media attention to the lack of sentencing options for crime-committing children tried as adults when she took on the appeals case of Paul Henry Gingerich. At 12, he made history as the youngest person in Indiana to be sent to prison as an adult.

His crime was awful — he helped a friend shoot

and kill the friend's stepfather as part of a plan to run away from home. But Foster argued he should have been tried as a juvenile, not an adult. (The Court of Appeals has ordered a legal do-over, sending the case back to juvenile court.)

Foster knows the power of a good hue and cry. In 1987, she was part in an international campaign to save 15-year-old Paula Cooper from being executed by Indiana for fatally stabbing an elderly woman in Gary. Cooper was released from prison this week.

**The outpouring of protests** against the girl's death sentence — including a condemnation of it by Pope John Paul II — caused a rethinking of both the sentence and the law. In 1989, after the Indiana General Assembly raised the minimum age for the death penalty, from 10 years old to 16, Cooper's sentence was commuted to 60 years in prison.

Indiana's new dual-sentencing law might not work. There are fears it will be used to send more children into the adult criminal system. And there exist fears, based on experience in some states, that black and Hispanic juveniles will be sent on to prison more frequently than their white counterparts.

But Foster sees the potential in giving judges more options to help juvenile offenders become law-abiding citizens. "The law," said Foster, "is unquestionably right." ❖

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## Morris, Tobias new IU trustees

INDIANAPOLIS - Governor Mike Pence today appointed members to the Indiana University Board of Trustees. Effective July 1, 2013, appointees will serve three-year terms, with the student trustee serving for two years.

"The leadership, public service, and personal accomplishments of the individuals named today will bring tremendous experience and insight to the Indiana University Board of Trustees," said Governor Pence.

Chief Financial Officer for Eli Lilly and Company, Derica Rice, of Indianapolis, has been reappointed to the Indiana University Board of Trustees.

Jim Morris, President of Pacers Sports and Entertainment has also been named to the Board. 1996 to 2002, serving as chair from 2000 to 2002.

With extensive experience in both the corporate world and public service, Ambassador Randall L. Tobias has been appointed to the Indiana University Board of Trustees.

A student at the Indiana University School of Medicine, Janice Farlow will serve as the Student Trustee for Indiana University. Farlow, of Indianapolis, is expected to graduate in 2017 with a medical degree. ❖





## Walorski's embrace of 'bipartisanship'

By JACK COLWELL

WASHINGTON – Jackie Walorski mentions bipartisanship frequently in an interview in her congressional office. And she's for it.

Surprise?

It shouldn't be. But it could be for two segments of the electorate back in Indiana's 2nd Congressional District, where Walorski, a Republican, was elected to a first term in the House in a close race last fall.



Some Tea Party activists who strongly supported Walorski could be surprised at her talk of working with Democrats on legislation and about a bipartisan meeting at the White House. They'll get over it. She's still out to kill

Obamacare.

Some of the Democrats in the district who figured Walorski would be like a Richard Mourdock in railing against bipartisanship, making her an easier target for defeat in 2014, could be surprised. And disappointed. But they'll still have votes to cite as the House moves or stalls.

What did she learn from her time as a state legislator that works well in Congress?

"The need to work together," Walorski says, "Bipartisanship."

How goes the work on two of the committees on which she serves, Armed Services and Veterans Affairs? "There's bipartisanship," she says, as Democrats and Republicans come together for the armed services and to deal with long waiting lists for medical attention for veterans.

She's also on the Budget Committee. Bipartisanship? Not so much.

**Walorski is working** with Rep. Loretta Sanchez, a California Democrat, in co-sponsorship of legislation to extend whistleblower protection in cases of military sexual assault and to clarify that victims are protected from punishment for reporting sexual assaults.

Walorski cites recent reports that sexual assaults are a serious problem in the military and that most go unreported because of feared consequences of reporting. "The first step is to provide a safe environment for reporting," says Walorski.

She relates that this approach has support of the Obama administration and was the subject of a bipartisan meeting she attended at the White House. And she says it

has gained momentum as a way to address "the alarming issue of underreporting" and to force accountability by the military.

Her proposal was attached as an amendment to the proposed National Defense Authorization Act in the Armed Services Committee.

**Walorski also has** been touring the district for information on those long waiting lists for veterans seeking health services. "I'm committed to making a difference," Walorski says. "That's why I ran."

An thus far her "softer" image with stress on bipartisanship, without the "harsher" Tea Party rhetoric when she first ran for Congress and lost in 2010, makes her appear less vulnerable in a 2014 race for re-election.

There is no declared Democratic opponent challenging the way she is identifying herself.

Brendan Mullen, the Democratic opponent who came close to defeating her in 2012, despite Republican-drawn redistricting, has not announced whether he will try again.

Meanwhile, in her campaign finance report for the first quarter of the year, Walorski reported \$158,953 in contributions. Mullen reported no contributions but had \$3,436 in cash on hand from the last race.

It should be no surprise that Walorski is stressing bipartisanship. One of the reasons her race was so close last time - winning with just 49 percent of the total vote - was the Mourdock effect. The controversial Republican nominee for the Senate hurt the whole Republican ticket with gaffes and insistence that more partisanship, not less, was needed in Washington.

**Murdock, at the two-term limit** as state treasurer, wants to get on the 2014 ballot as the Republican nominee for state auditor. He could be a drag on the Republican ticket as an auditor candidate, but not like he was in the spotlight for the U.S. Senate.

All the polls show that voters want bipartisanship, working together rather than continuing bitter partisan gridlock.

Just talking about bipartisanship doesn't necessarily mean it will be realized to bring agreement on important issues facing the nation.

But talking that way, especially in a potentially competitive district, makes political sense and could be seen as at least a step toward common sense.

Another Michele Bachmann? No. Some of those Tea Party enthusiasts probably hoped that Walorski would spout off like Bachmann. Some of the district Democrats probably hoped so as well, for a different reason. ❖

**Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.**



## Energy will refuel U.S. and Indiana economy

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO – Economists may sit around and pontificate on the numerous storms they see on the horizon, but while they stew in their gloom and doom a dramatically positive change is coming.

The United States labor force has suffered through decades of manufacturing job losses due to the outsourcing of work to low-labor-cost countries such as Mexico, China and India. The unique American blend of costly government regulations, union-driven high labor costs and ugly corporate tax rates sent jobs by the millions to other countries. The trend has slowed, is starting to reverse and may eventually result in an explosion of new manufacturing jobs here in the good old USA.



What has made this once unimaginable possibility a potential reality?

Energy.

Lots of it.

While Americans focused on surviving the banking melt-down, the near collapse of the

financial services industry and the terrible recession that followed, the creative and innovative minds in the energy industry found huge new resources of oil and natural gas and the way to efficiently extract them from deep underground. This quiet revolution in the oil patch has quickly moved the United States from deeply dependent on foreign suppliers for our energy resources to a position of potential energy independence.

**Just as Ronald Reagan's** deregulation of natural gas prices in the early 1980s presaged a boom in natural gas exploration and a resultant boom in supplies, the OPEC cartel coupled with voracious appetites for energy from Russia, China and India led to our brightest minds in energy finding vast resources of reserves under the forbidding tundra of North Dakota and former oil patches next door in Ohio. That old supply /demand curve from economics class is now starting to make some sense.

Something else has added to the potential for vast insourcing of manufacturing employment back to the United States. That additional factor is a decreased cost of labor. Labor costs have not only been driven down by manufacturing innovation and the slow demise of organized

labor, but primarily by the precipitous decline of the United States dollar. The net benefit of a government that prints currency like toilet paper and spends like there is no tomorrow is that the value of that currency declines compared to other principal world currencies. That decline of currency value makes our labor relatively cheaper.

**Remember back in the** late 1980s when pundits and management experts just about had us all convinced that Japanese labor was superior to our labor force? Japanese management was innovative and skilled far beyond our lowly American counterparts. Why some American manufacturing plants started doing group cheers in the morning and calisthenics because that is what the Japanese manufacturers did? Did it ever dawn on you why, if Japanese labor and management were so omnipotent, do we have a Toyota plant in Princeton, a Honda plant in Greensburg and a Subaru plant in Lafayette? Our labor and management didn't get appreciably better; labor costs fell along with the dollar versus the Japanese yen.

For the past 20 years or so, it has been economically efficient for the Chinese to come to the United States, purchase raw materials, transport them to China, use Chinese labor to manufacture a finished product and transport it back to the United States for consumption.

All the words and worry that we've devoted to the Chinese "problem" are darn close to becoming wasted.

Our ability to produce massive amounts of low-cost electricity, fueled by the conversion of plentiful natural gas to electricity, and coupled with an ever declining cost of labor due to the continued decline of the dollar will make manufacturing in the United States so lucrative to multinational manufacturers that they will be driven to open new manufacturing plants in our country and hire American workers.

We are poised for a new manufacturing revolution.

The United States government must take steps to facilitate and speed this insourcing revolution. First, we must approve and speed the construction of existing and new pipelines. Second, we must reduce corporate tax rates to a point where multinational corporations will be motivated to repatriate money for the construction of new manufacturing plants. Third, we must abandon the ridiculous and wasteful expenditure of federal money on propping up bogus alternative energy industries and schemes and devote resources to a common insourcing goal. Finally, we must scrap or dramatically retool the Affordable Care Act to where it will not be a disincentive to the hiring of workers.

**Here in Indiana, we** have already taken steps to prepare our state for the coming manufacturing revolution. We have capped property taxes, reduced corporate income tax rates and implemented job training programs that will enhance the skills of potential manufacturing workers.



Former Gov. Mitch Daniels and our current governor, Mike Pence, are to be commended for their vision as we approach this historical opportunity.

The ability to solve many of our country's pressing economic, fiscal and social problems will come from the dramatic growth of our American economy. It is an oppor-

tunity that should be seized by all. ❖

### **Dunn is chairman of the Howard County Republican Party.**

## United funding for the arts in Indiana

**By MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS — A good friend has come up with a good idea. I know it is a good idea because, when he first presented it to me and another friend, both of us were very skeptical. Such is the inevitable fate of good ideas among friends.



So listen to this, and feel free to be skeptical. By the end, you might see this idea as a good one that deserves attention.

According to the 2014 budget submitted by Gov. Mike Pence, the Indiana Arts Commission would receive \$3.7 million from the general fund. That's approximately 57 cents each for our state's 6.5 million people.

You and I might well disagree about the wisdom of government support for the arts,

but we should be able to agree that 57 cents per capita is a small amount.

If we could agree museums, live theater, symphonies, galleries and other arts organizations should receive more funding (not necessarily from government), then we could ask: "How might that be accomplished?"

**Today, the private** sector (businesses, households, and foundations) support the arts through admission fees and grants of various sorts. My mail box receives regular appeals from the symphony, art museums, the state museum, the opera, the ballet, public radio and TV, plus other very worthy arts organizations. All of them offer me membership cards or some token of recognition and appreciation.

How delightfully simple it would be to give to one private agency that would dispense funds to them all!

We already have the local United Way for allocating funds to a wide variety of social services. Why not a

statewide United Arts Fund to distribute our personal contributions widely to organizations that serve our communities? Individual agencies of this sort already exist in a few Hoosier cities.

**The mechanisms** are simple and already in use. Thousands of us pay for our newspapers and/or our public radio via a routine debit to our checking accounts. Other thousands have authorized regular deductions from our paychecks for the United Way and/or other worthy causes. The programs are in place; they need only simple modifications to start working.

What we do not have is a statewide United Arts Fund where the monies could be collected together and then allocated to arts organizations.

Imagine an Indiana where half our population gave one dollar per week to the United Arts Fund. That would sum to more than \$150 million per year for distribution. No government involvement. No political pressure on arts agencies.

Some people would not support this proposal for funding the arts because they disapprove of any centralized activity. Others would not support the arts because they don't include NASCAR, roller derby, or cage fighting.

**No one would** be prevented from giving more to his or her favorite organization. The Bow and Arrow Club of Brookston would still have the Eiteljorg Museum of Western Art. Nonetheless, a broad base of support for the arts could be obtained with minimal organizational expense and no involvement from the Indiana General Assembly.

Now, as skeptical as you are of simplicity, you will grant this is an interesting possibility for a better Indiana.

❖

**Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, writer and speaker. Contact him at [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com)**



## Indiana Chamber redefines 'chutzpah'

By **SHAW FRIEDMAN**

LaPORTE - The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, whose legislative program for the last 10 years has been focused on gutting revenue sources for state government and making sure wealthy, profitable corporations could lower wage rates and escape taxation, just did the unthinkable.

Rather than quietly rest on their laurels and raise a glass of champagne with their well-heeled donors to toast their good fortune, the Indiana Chamber had the nerve to issue a report recently complaining that Indiana's not doing enough for kids in terms of K-12 education or even pre-school.



That's right. The Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Kevin Brinegar – the pied piper of corporate tax cuts and apologist for multi-state corporate tax avoidance – had the unmitigated gall to say "our number one priority has to be investing in

education, knowledge and the skills of Hoosiers."

According to a May 26 column by Jack Colwell in the South Bend Tribune, Brinegar made a pious call for "preschool programs as one of his goals." The Indiana Chamber is now wringing its hands over Indiana's need for "better education, less poverty, improved health and better quality of life."

Reminds me of that story of the kid who murdered his parents and then asked for mercy from the court because he was now an orphan!

Brinegar and the state Chamber have successfully spent the last decade trying to gut revenue sources like Indiana corporate income taxes that could have paid for things like pre-school education or even free textbooks.

**We're one of only** eight states in the nation without state-funded pre-school education, but Brinegar and his blindly obedient allies in the Indiana Legislature cut Indiana's corporate tax rate from 8.5 percent to 6.5 percent last year. That's lost funding that could have gone to preschool education. What about coming up with the funds to replace the \$300 million cut from K-12 in the last budget cycle? Indiana Senate Democrats tell us that over the next two years, more than half of the state's schools will receive less funding in 2015 than in 2011.

Concerned about poverty? The Indiana Chamber

has zealously fought increases in the minimum wage and has opposed unemployment benefit increases that would have kept more of the working poor out of poverty.

How about the nerve of the State Chamber to declare it's stunned that Indiana has gone from the 12th worst poverty rate in the nation just 13 years ago to 35th worst in the country in 2011? Yet this is a Chamber that blindly supported Mitch Daniels' automatic tax refunds while knowing that state anti-poverty programs like home health care for the elderly and the disabled would be cut.

**How does Brinegar** square his cut-corporate-taxes and slice-taxes-on-the-wealthy approach with the just-released report by Feeding America Inc. indicating that one million Hoosiers – including 355,000 children – do not always know where their next meal is coming from?

The Chamber has worked mightily to support privatization of our public schools with one voucher program after another that took away funding from public schools. Then they have the audacity to complain as Brinegar did that "a million Hoosiers don't have the minimum basic skills to compete." This from one of the architects of state plans to dismember funding for public schools.

The Chamber goes on in its recent report to deplore sinking health standards for Hoosiers. The annual Gallup Healthways Wellbeing Index showed us continuing our bottom tier rankings, but the Chamber supported \$150 million tax relief for highly profitable banks and financial institutions this last session of the legislature while health prevention programs were being gutted.

At a time when we most need a trained, highly skilled workforce to compete, Ivy Tech is in danger of closing regional campuses due to a \$60 million deficit. But Brinegar and the Chamber supported eliminating \$150 million the state receives from inheritance tax collections. That's right, those who by accident of birth come into fortunes are not required in the State Chamber's eyes to have to "pay it forward."

**Most unseemly**, the State Chamber supported Gov. Pence's individual income tax cut that at its peak in 2017 will only mean a \$2-a-week tax break for the average family. That's \$300 million more gone from state coffers that could have been returned to cash-starved local communities that have run out of money to fill potholes, rebuild bridges or save parks from going to seed.

Mr. Brinegar, you and the State Chamber are effective advocates for the biggest corporations and wealthiest individuals in our state. You are certainly no advocates for local Chambers or the problems that Hoosiers on Main Street face. You've redefined "chutzpah" for a new generation of Hoosiers with these crocodile tears shed in your latest report for the current state of education, health, and quality of life in Indiana. The State Chamber's efforts these last ten years have been mightily effective – at comforting



the comfortable and afflicting the afflicted.

Don't you dare now feign surprise or express mock concern over what your policies have wrought for most Hoosier families. ❖

**Shaw R. Friedman is a LaPorte attorney who is a regular HPI columnist.**

## Lake sheriff primary field begins to gather

By **RICH JAMES**

MERRILLVILLE – Perhaps it's the substantial salary. Perhaps it's the power. Perhaps it's all about ego. Whatever the reason, there isn't a local election in Lake County that draws more interest than the race for sheriff.

The lineup generally takes shape in the fall before the May Democratic primary. Republicans rarely count in countywide elections in Lake County, but this year, the Democratic sheriff's primary already has taken on its primary look, perhaps the final formation.

And the primary has much the same look as it did in 2010. The only substantial difference is that there is an incumbent sheriff today. There wasn't four years ago. Sheriff John Buncich topped Richard Ligon and Oscar Martinez

in the 2010 primary. There were several other candidates who received votes but had little chance to win.

Buncich was elected sheriff in 1994 and 1998, but couldn't seek a third term because state law limits the sheriff to two consecutive terms. Roy Dominguez was elected sheriff in 2002. Buncich tried to a comeback in 2006, but narrowly lost to Dominguez. Buncich made it all the way back in 2010 and now is seeking a second consecutive term.

Many around the state remember the name of Buncich's legal advisor, both during the first two years and today. Former state Sen. John Bushemi has been a close ally and attorney for the sheriff's department since Buncich came into office.

**Buncich is an enigma** of sorts when it comes to Lake County elected officials. When he first left the sheriff's department he was riding high in terms of popularity and could have run for, and

probably won, another county office.

The late Sheriff Stephen Stiglich was elected county auditor after being sheriff. The late Sheriff Leslie O. Pruitt was county auditor and treasurer besides being sheriff. But Buncich, a career police officer, said his only interest was in law enforcement and declined seeking other county offices.

Ligon spent his career working as a postal inspector for the U.S. Postal Service. He pretty much disappeared from public view after losing to Buncich. When Karen Freeman-Wilson was elected Gary mayor in 2011, she named Ligon the city's public safety director.

Ligon oversaw the city's police and fire departments. Why a city of 80,000 needed – or could afford – a public safety director is anyone's guess. Likely because of budgetary problems, Logon didn't last long and his position was eliminated.

**Martinez is a sergeant** with 20 years on the county police department. He made a name for himself by stopping drug couriers headed to and through Lake County from Mexico. His efforts resulted in the seizure of large amounts of narcotics and cash.

So successful was Martinez at one point that some local folks felt he had connections in Mexico who were tipping him as to when drug couriers would be coming through the area. He complained when Buncich earlier removed him from the interdiction task force.

Buncich will enjoy the backing of Lake County Democratic Chairman Thomas M. McDermott Jr., who also is mayor of Hammond, Lake County's most populous city, according to the 2010 Census. ❖

**Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years. He is a columnist for NWI Times.**



Lake County Sheriff John Buncich



**Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press:** As lawmakers returned to the Statehouse for a single vote last week, their decision to override one of Gov. Mike Pence's vetoes served to underscore two of the Indiana political landscape's new realities. The Republican-dominated General Assembly perceives Pence to sometimes ignore the practicality of his ideological positions and of when he decides to weigh in on issues, and can grow frustrated as a result of that. And Pence doesn't seem to care what lawmakers tell him is practical. He appears to have decided he is willing to go down swinging, even when doing so puts him at risk of being cast as politically weak or ineffective. This was on display last week as lawmakers traveled back to the capitol for a one-day, one-vote meeting. It was the first time they'd ever used their "technical corrections" day to override a veto. The bill Pence had rejected would have retroactively authorized \$6 million worth of local-option income tax collections in Jackson and Pulaski counties. These weren't new taxes. They'd been legally authorized at one point, but also contained automatic sunset provisions. Those sunset dates came and went, but no one noticed; county-level officials forgot to reauthorize the taxes and the Indiana Department of Revenue forgot to stop collecting them. In vetoing the bill, Pence said he considered that taxation unlawful and said those taxpayers should be reimbursed. Legislators, though, said that literally no one in those communities was complaining about the taxes, and that the revenue is being used to pay for the operation of local jails.

Sometimes, Pence has proved willing to adapt his demands. When Senate leaders made clear that they were not on board with a broad expansion of Indiana's private school voucher program, Pence embraced a smaller one than he had suggested. But the pattern of Pence failing to bend his position, even faced by lawmakers who simply would not give him what he wanted, is one Hoosiers have seen several times. Republican lawmakers took a number of steps during this year's legislative session to help Pence. For instance, they agreed to help him achieve a portion of his top agenda item by reducing the state's individual income tax rate by 5 percent over the next four years, even though few lawmakers passionately embraced that idea. Still, just days before the legislative session ended and hours before that deal was finalized, Pence delivered an Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce speech in which he argued for twice the tax cut in one-third the time. He knew he wouldn't get that, and he also knew that arguing for it one last time would place him at greater risk of looking politically weak relative to Republican lawmakers. Yet he did it anyway — because, for better or worse, lawmakers don't seem to be whom he cares to win over. ❖



**Dan Carpenter, Indianapolis Star:** A key state senator and the state prosecutors' association hail it as a body blow to the bad guys. A veteran defense lawyer and a leading civil liberties advocate call it an ominous intrusion of big government into the lives of the innocent. A professor of criminal law questions the usefulness of a potentially huge database of DNA that lumps certified criminals with hordes of highly unlikely suspects. Certainly, last week's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court allowing authorities to take DNA samples from persons who've been arrested but not convicted comes at a testy time for trust in the powers that be. News about the mass gathering of Verizon phone records by the National Security Agency, on top of the tax targeting and media surveillance scandals, has made bedfellows of rightists and leftists in fear of what accelerating technology might do to bedrock freedoms. "What right does the state have to investigate unsolved crimes by getting information from people that we would traditionally think was private?" asked Kenneth Falk of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana. "It's as if the police came into my house and said 'We know you haven't done anything wrong now, but we're checking to see if you've done anything in the past — or might in the future.'" ❖

**Tad DeHaven, Cato Institute:** When he was a high-ranking conservative Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mike Pence was a chief critic of Washington's out-of-control spending and growing debt. Now that he is Indiana's governor, Pence is dependent on the same federal largesse that he bemoaned. Most Hoosiers would be surprised to know that under Pence's first budget proposal, federal funds would have accounted for around 35 percent of total state spending. Indiana state government is not unique in this regard and Pence's predecessor, Mitch Daniels, was similarly dependent on federal money. Indeed, Daniels signed an executive order on his first day in office creating the state Office of Federal Grants and Procurement (OFGP) to increase Indiana's take from the federal honey pot. As a candidate, however, Pence said that he wanted to turn the OFGP into an "office of federalism" that would take a "Thanks, but no thanks" approach to those federal handouts with too many strings attached. Unfortunately, the governor has adopted a convenient "have your cake and eat it too" definition of federalism. I point specifically to the lieutenant governor's office, which has a budget almost entirely funded by the federal government (92 percent). Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann serves merely as a goodwill ambassador — the goodwill often coming in the form of gifts from taxpayers to various interests. A start would be to instruct his lieutenant governor to stop pretending to be Santa Claus with other people's money. ❖



## Farm bill advances in House

WASHINGTON - A new five-year farm bill advanced steadily in the House on Wednesday, combining political muscle and backroom persuasion to try to clear the path of divisive fights that threaten the coalition needed to get to conference with the Senate. A Democratic amendment to restore \$20.5 billion in food stamp cuts was easily defeated 234-188, and the leadership had no trouble winning an earlier procedural vote that had been once feared as a prime opportunity for opponents to bring down the entire bill. Much closer was a 220-203 vote that narrowly rejected a bipartisan effort to make changes in the Food for Peace program along the lines of reforms



backed by President Barack Obama. But for this first day at least, House Agriculture Chairman Frank Lucas (R-Okla.) had the upper hand — something felt down the line. Midwest corn and soybean interests were suddenly without a sponsor as Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-Ohio) pulled down his amendment challenging a new price-loss program important to Southern crops. Across the aisle, environmental groups felt the same twinge as Rep. Mike Thompson (D-Calif.) faded in a fight over toughening conservation requirements for farmers benefiting from crop insurance.

## Club for Growth lauds Stutzman

WASHINGTON – The Club for Growth issued the following statement on the efforts of Congressman Marlin

Stutzman (R-IN) to end the practice of combining farm subsidies with food stamps in the so-called “Farm” bill. Congressman Stutzman’s amendment to do that was rejected by the House Rules committee, meaning that it will not be considered as part of the debate on the House Farm bill. Congressman Stutzman voted against the rule on the bill: “Congressman Marlin Stutzman sent exactly the right message by voting against the rule for the Farm Bill when his amendment to separate farm subsidies and food stamps was rejected,” said Club for Growth President Chris Chocola. “It’s sad that the House Republican leadership did not fight to end the unholy marriage of farm subsidies and food stamps. Even fans of the farm bill readily admit that the only reason the two are combined is to improve chances of passing both. Instead of stifling pro-growth reforms, more Republicans should stand on principle like Congressman Stutzman did today.”

## Donnelly first Dem to seek ACA change

WASHINGTON - Sen. Joe Donnelly of Indiana today becomes the first Democrat who voted for the health-care law to back changes to its requirement that companies offer coverage to employees working 30 hours a week or more or pay a penalty (Wall Street Journal). Mr. Donnelly’s staff said the senator plans to announce Wednesday afternoon that he is signing on as a co-author to a bill initially introduced by Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine in April that seeks to change the rule to apply only to workers clocking 40 hours a week or more. The rule kicks in next year. As we’ve reported, employer groups trying to get the rule peeled back had been searching for a long time for any Democrats to openly support them,

and their prospects appeared to be dimming. Most Democrats are still maintaining a unified front in support of the law’s provision — which can’t easily be altered without raising the price-tag of the overhaul. Big backers of the requirement, like Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, argue that employers that try to avoid giving health coverage to their workers are making short-sighted business decisions.

## Audit prompts woman’s suicide

AKRON, Ind. - A state audit has found that the treasurer of a northern Indiana school district embezzled about \$280,000 before police say she committed suicide soon after being questioned. The Kosciusko County Sheriff’s Department says several Tippecanoe Valley School Corp. checks and district credit card receipts for personal items were found in a purse that was stolen from 50-year-old Sherri Adamson. The Rochester Sentinel and The Journal Gazette report an officer and the district superintendent confronted Adamson on Jan. 7. She said she made a mistake then fled. The department says she shot herself in woods near her rural Rochester home. State auditors say Adamson made about \$245,000 in improper credit card charges since June 2010 along with nearly \$35,000 in checks made to herself or her creditors..

## Atterbury could be drone test site

EDINBURGH -Drones could become more common at Camp Atterbury, which is a key piece in a joint bid by Indiana and Ohio to become a center for drone testing. They hope to become one of six testing sites where the Federal Aviation Administration determines how drones can be flown.