



SENATOR JEAN BREAUX

116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 34

NEWS RELEASE

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Breaux disappointed to see net metering blocked for second year *Consumer friendly proposal failed in final stages of negotiation*

INDIANAPOLIS— A bill to expand net metering for Indiana utility consumers failed in the final stages of negotiation when the 2010 Legislative Session adjourned early Saturday morning. State Senator Jean Breaux (D-Indianapolis) said she is disappointed that a compromise was not met to benefit consumers through reduced energy costs, the promotion of green jobs, and reduction of the state's carbon footprint.

"I am very disappointed to see this bill fail for the second year in a row," said Breaux. "This bill could have saved consumers money, created good paying jobs, and lessened our state's carbon footprint. Because we failed to move forward on this bill, Indiana will continue to fall behind other states that have implemented net metering."

Indiana has one of the lowest individual system capacity limits among 43 states with net metering policies. Indiana's current net metering policy received an "F" grade from The Network for New Energy Choices, a national energy policy organization.

Net metering regulations allow homeowners and businesses who generate excess electricity through wind mills, solar panels and other renewable energy technologies, to send any excess power back onto the electric grid for a credit on their energy bill.

Several versions of the bill were introduced in the 2010 legislative session. Two bills related to net metering, Senate Bill (SB) 313 and House Bill (HB) 1094, were approved in both chambers. Proposals from each bill were rolled into Senate Bill 313 during the joint House-Senate conference committee process where members of each caucus negotiate a final compromise.

"Although this bill failed to make it out of the legislative session, I plan to continue working to increase awareness of the availability and benefits of net metering," said Breaux. "It is important to make sure that this conversation continues and to let more Hoosiers take advantage of the opportunity."

For more information on Senator Breaux, her legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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