



SENATOR  
**KAREN TALLIAN**  
116TH INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ★ SENATE DISTRICT 4

**NEWS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release:*  
February 26, 2010

*Media Contact:*  
Peg McLeish, 317-232-9507  
Elise Shrock, 317-232-9496

**Expanding our net metering policy means more jobs, lower utility bills**

**Letter to the Editor/ Opinion-Editorial**

By Indiana State Senator Karen Tallian (D-Portage)  
Word Count: 350

This year, we are addressing a number of important issues in the General Assembly. Taxes, job creation and education are all at the top of Hoosiers' minds, especially in this tough economy.

A key piece of legislation that has the potential to both create jobs and save consumers money addresses net metering. Net metering allows businesses and homeowners the opportunity to generate their own electricity – through renewable solar or wind systems, for example – and get credit on their monthly bills when they return any extra power to the electric grid.

Currently, Indiana has one of the most restrictive net metering policies in the Midwest, which prohibits most of us from participating. Both the Senate and the House have passed bills aimed at enhancing our state's net metering policy, expanding participation to include homeowners, school districts, municipalities, farms, and businesses.

How will net metering impact the everyday consumer? It allows us to take control of our own energy use, saving us money in these tough times. According to the State Environmental Resource Center, customers that utilize net metering systems tend to be much more aware of their energy consumption, so they usually consume less energy than the average retail customer. Translation: lower utility bills.

At the same time, a strong net metering policy has the potential to create new jobs for Hoosiers across the state. When we use renewable energy sources, we're helping put people to work in jobs that are tied to manufacturing parts for wind turbines; installing solar panels on homes and businesses; marketing our clean technologies; and designing the energy solutions of the future. And, it's another step toward reducing our dependence on foreign oil by using homegrown renewable energy sources.

As my time in Indianapolis winds down this session, I want to assure you I'm doing everything I can to support legislation that builds on our state's strengths, creates jobs, and puts money back in the pockets of the people of this district. Working together, I am hopeful we can pass a sound net metering policy that works for the people of this district and this state.

###

*State Senator Karen Tallian represents Senate District 4 which encompasses portions of northern Porter County and portions of Ross and St. John townships in Lake County. For more information on Sen. Tallian or other State Senate business visit [www.in.gov/s4](http://www.in.gov/s4).*